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MORROW COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER

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The Key to the Tax Problem.

M. M. Moulton, a representative in the Washington legislature, addressing the hydro electric meeting at Walla Walla ably presented an idea that should be emphasized over and over again in Oregon and Washington. The advice is more applicable in Oregon than in our sister state.

Mr. Moulton's point is that the remedy for tax burdens in the northwest is to develop our resources, such as irrigation and hydro electric power, thereby enlarging the amount of assessable property.

Speaker Louis E. Bean of the Oregon house of representatives, made the same point at the meeting held in Pendleton on February 5. The East Oregonian has on many occasions made the same argument in slightly different words by urging that Old Man Oregon should get to work and reduce the tax rate by increasing the state's wealth. If we cannot reduce the divisor let us increase the dividend has been this newspaper's slogan and it brought from a Portland paper the charge of being a champion of high taxes, which charge is not true.

To solve any problem it is first necessary to properly analyze the fundamental conditions involved. This the ultra conservatives who devote their time to mere futile complaint about taxes fail to do. They assume that the state is extravagant and cities and counties likewise. They are in error. Government in Oregon is on a parsimonious basis and there is abundant evidence to prove it. We should frankly accept the fact and turn to the one true remedy for high taxes which is more development and more production.

The Umatilla rapids project will illustrate the point. The estimated cost of developing power at the rapids is \$20,500,000, though the cost at this time would doubtless be larger. But it is estimated that land that may be watered through use of power for pumping purposes will produce \$30,000,000 in crops annually—a sum equal to more than half the total assessed wealth of Umatilla county. It is idle to predict what the irrigable land would be worth when reclaimed but it would add colossal wealth to the tax rolls of Oregon and Washington. That is a certainty. On top of that would be the continuous hydro electric power that would be developed and which would be available for industrial purposes. It may be safely asserted that the continuous horse power, measured in terms of coal at less than present prices, would be worth from \$5,000,000 to \$25,000,000 annually. There is engineering authority for this statement.

To develop the Umatilla rapids project would mean to lower living costs, lower industrial costs, including the cost of farming; it would reduce railroad expenses and freight rates proportionately; it would lighten the taxpayers' burden not by reducing gross expenditures but by reducing millage taxation through increasing assessable wealth. This is the true and only remedy for the tax problem in an undeveloped region. This state, and in a lesser degree the state of Washington is in the same category, is situated much like a farmer who has but one-third of his land under cultivation. Finding himself hard pressed he must either cut expenses or increase his gross income. He cannot reduce operating expenses because those expenses are based on conditions beyond his control. Naturally his course is to bring the remaining two-thirds of his land under cultivation. He must look to development rather than economy.

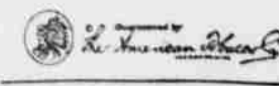
Oregon is in exactly the plight of such a farmer. We are making use of less than one-third the potential wealth of the state. We must draw on our unused resources and make them produce just as must the farmer just referred to. There would be no sympathy for a complaining farmer who failed to farm two-thirds of his land. Why should a slothful state be entitled to different consideration?

Development must be the slogan for the northwest. We should take the constructive, affirmative course, not a policy of negation. The remedy for the tax problem is at hand if we want to use it. We had clear counsel from Speaker Bean on February 5 and from Representative Moulton at Walla Walla last Saturday. If that idea can be pressed home throughout Oregon and Washington we will arouse a sentiment that will assure development not only of the Umatilla rapids project but of other enterprises that will bring this region into its own.—Pendleton East Oregonian.



LUCKY STRIKE

cigarette. Flavor is sealed in by toasting



President's Cabinet Not Legal Body.

Every four years when a new president takes his office the American people hear a great deal about his "cabinet." One would think that the cabinet is the greatest body in the country, at least able to put through great acts and measures.

As a matter of fact, the president's "cabinet" as such has no legal existence or powers. In creating the departments 132 years ago, Congress authorized secretaries to head them, but no mention was made in the law of a cabinet or a cabinet council. Their secretaries were to be advisers of the president and to conduct the various government businesses under their charge according to the laws provided by Congress.

Of course President Washington called his secretaries into consultation frequently, but it was some years after the first presidential office began before the term "cabinet" was heard. It would be interesting today to know who first used or printed the word "cabinet" in connection with the president's secretarial conferences.

Just now, when a new cabinet is so much in evidence, it is instructive to know how this body operates. They always meet in executive-secret session, and on regular fixed days selected by the president himself and officially announced. If each secretary's important department business were taken up and discussed, the meetings would be endless affairs. Consequently, each secretary discusses such matters separately with the president. Only matters of weight, involving administration policy, and pieces of legislation desired by the president and the secretaries, are discussed at the sessions.

We shall decline the appointment if some future president sees fit to offer us a cabinet job. About all a cabinet member is, is a four-year target for every opposition kicker in the country.

Slats' Diary.

Friday—was at a party tonite agin & walked home with Jane. I stopped at her gait not wanting 2 ack rood & leave her 2 early. We seen a star fall out of the Sky & I sed to her Mak a wish & it will cum trew. She sed I wish you wood go home. Her wish cum trew. Sum day she will go 2 far.

Saturday—Volantines day. I got a pitcher of a dunkey which had my inishels rote under it I cant imajen whom sent it only the riteing looked like sum notes I have fourmerlie reed. from Jane. & I spent a dime on 1 for Her. As Rudder Flipping sed in a pome which he rote A Fool they Was. and etc.

Sunday—They was a fine pitcher show in town tonite which was Wm. S. Hart & a funny comedy at the pitcher show and ma kinda wanted 2 go. All so I. But pa objected he sed he was awe full sleepy. So we went 2 church.

Monday—Techer was talking about advise. She ast me did I all ways take my mas advise & I exclaimed to her that ma never gives me no advise. She jus tells me what 2 do & I most all ways generally do it 2.

Tuesday—me & Jake found a pack of reel cigarets today & we went out in the summer kitchen & lit a cupple pa cum in unekspected & grabbed at me, & all so caught me. I exclaimed they was only little innocent cigarets. But he was cold harted. I am riteing this a standing up. got sick be sides.

Wednesday—ast ma for a jitney for 2 get sum candy today. She sed Slats I cernly get tired of haveing you ast me for money all the time no you cant have it. I get turned down so often I am getting tired my own self.

Thursday—we saw Mr. Gillem a passing the house today with a paper sack under his arm. ma wondered what it was like wimmen do & pa sed prices was up so high it was hard 2 tell wether it was a nickels worth of cabbage or a \$ worth of appels.

He Wanted to be Hanged Quite Publicly.

A Chicago murderer who was hanged one fine morning recently, kept the newspaper readers of that city entertained during the last week of his life with denunciations of capital punishment. One day he suggested that they publicly hang him in Grant Park, which is the lake front adjacent to the business section and its teeming millions. He said that hundreds of thousands would see him swing and that the gruesomeness of capital punishment would be too much for 95 per cent of them.

He forgot to speak about the effect on those hundreds of thousands if they had all witnessed the fearful spectacle when he walked into a restaurant and shot the proprietor dead, nor of the gruesomeness to the people in the dining room when the murdered man's blood was spattered all over their tables. We rather imagine that those diners thought pretty well of capital punishment at that particular moment and wished that they could pull the rope.

Thus it is with all assassins. They forget about their victims whose joyous lives they have blotted out, of the wives and children and mothers whom they have stricken with grief. They think only of their own miserable selves—of the terrible thing it is for the law to take a life that had no compunction in blotting out another life.

Perhaps capital punishment should be abolished in the promotion of a greater civilization, but certainly there are two sides to the question.

There is bound to be a better spirit of cooperation in this city among all our citizens. Good things are coming to Heppner and we believe the good horse-sense of the citizenship here will compel them to lay aside anything that will hinder progress. It is the right way and cannot arrive too soon. Ere long there will be a hammer-burying ceremony and the knocker will go out of business.

To assist in alleviating the distress in both China and the Near East, Morrow county is to be asked for \$3400—the most of which can be handled as foodstuffs. We have grain and our contribution should take this form. It is promised that transportation of all grain and food for the famine districts will be free. When the people of our county fully realize the awful condition that now exists, they will surely be liberal in their response.

Charles Evans Hughes will make a great Secretary of State. He is one of the big men of the nation and a real statesman.

As has been suggested before, there are many things that Heppner needs. We believe one of the main things that Heppner needs just now is the completion of the Willow creek highway. A good man at our elbow has dropped the thought that it will be well to concentrate on one or two good propositions and see that they are put over; in other words, it will not pay to get too many irons in the fire. Commissioner Barratt is seeking all the aid we can give him in his efforts to help along the completion of the highway. We must not fail to get behind him.

It requires but three cents a day to save the life of one person in the famine district of China. We are called on to give relief in the awful extremity that now exists in Shantung province where 50,000,000 people are facing death by the terrible agonies of starvation.

Guy M. Walker of New York, writing in the New York American, answers the plea that over-population of Japan makes necessary a Japanese policy of territorial expansion. The islands of Japan, excluding Korea and Formosa, writes Mr. Walker, have an area of 150,000 square miles and a population of about 55,000,000. England and Wales have an area of one-third that of Japan with a population of approximately 45,000,000. Italy also is more densely populated than Japan, while the German empire is only slightly less so. The island of Java has one-third the area of the Japanese islands and a population of 36,000,000. The province of Bengal is twice as thickly populated as Japan.

Korea, taken by the Japanese as an area for overflow, is almost as densely populated as Japan, while the country is nothing like as rich or fertile. The province of Shantung, also said to be necessary as an outlet for Japanese population, has two and a half times as many people to the square mile as there are in the Japanese islands and it is a mountainous, rugged country, not nearly as fertile a country as Japan—yet it has always been self-supporting. The Japanese official year-book for 1920 shows that only about 40 per cent of the arable land of the Japanese islands is under cultivation, 60 per cent being held by the crown or the nobles. If this ground were open to cultivation, it would furnish ample means of supporting an additional population as great as that now living in Japan. Overseas territory is sought, says Mr. Walker, only for the purpose of avoiding the surrender of these feudal privileges and as a basis of increased naval and military strength. In other words, there is no basis for the claim that Japan

needs room in which to take care of her present or prospective population.

It is expected that there will be a gratifying report from the committee on public play grounds at the next meeting of the Brotherhood. We consider this one of the pressing needs of this town and shall await the committee's report with interest.

Cooked Food and Candy Sale. The Endeavor society of the Christian church will give a sale of cooked food and homemade candies at the Humphreys Drug store on Saturday, beginning at 10:00 a. m. Many goodies will be at your disposal at this time. Saturday, February 26th.

The American Legion Post at Lane are preparing to put on a big ball in the auditorium in that city on the evening of March 4th. It will be a grand affair.

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