

THE GAZETTE-TIMES

The Heppner Gazette, Established March 23, 1882. The Heppner Times, Established November 18, 1887. Consolidated February 15, 1912.

Published every Thursday morning by Walter and Spencer Crawford and entered at the Postoffice at Heppner, Oregon as second-class matter.

ADVERTISING RATES GIVEN ON APPLICATION

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: One Year, \$2.00; Six Months, \$1.25; Three Months, .75; Single Copies, .50.

MORROW COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER

Foreign Advertising Representative THE AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

Conference Accomplishments Shine Forth

It is related that while Michael Angelo was decorating the Sistine Chapel his work elicited comparatively little praise from his associates, was the object of criticism by his enemies and of indifference by the casual passerby.

Much the same might be said regarding the work of the Conference for Limitation of Armament. Although it lasted but the short space of three months, public attention was attracted and became more caustic, and even many of the friends of the movement became discouraged.

Of so momentous and stupendous a work pages and volumes will be written, so that it is impossible to embrace within the confines of a few sentences a just review of its tasks.

First, was the assurance given upon the opening day by President Harding, who called the conference, that, "This is not a council of nations seeking to remake mankind."

Coordinate with this was the very definite program placed before it by the United States, which called it, a program to which it was firmly held by its chairman, Secretary Hughes.

In so far as this and other nations were concerned, another large contributing factor to the success of the conference was the fact, as the President stated in his address on the closing day of the conference, that no nation was asked at any time to surrender any of its sovereignty, impair its nationality, or do anything that would humble its national pride.

No intrigue was proposed, no offensive involvements were suggested. It was a conference of equal sovereigns discussing means by which they could mutually work to serve the common cause of mankind.

In so far as the United States alone is concerned, the conference was a success because it was backed by the people and because at every stage of its progress and in every day of its duration the public was apprised of what the conference had done and what it contemplated doing on the morrow.

As a corollary to this, the President placed upon the official American delegation two representatives of the United States Senate, that branch of the government coordinate with him in the making and the conclusion of any binding agreement.

He went even further, in that one of these selections represented that political party which is opposed to the administration.

Virtually all the history of the conference was given to the world from day to day, nor did that frank publicity end with the adjournment of the conference, for on its final day it made provision for the publication of all the records in connection with the conference and the complete minutes of each day's session.

This will be given to the world as soon as it is made up, so that the world may know why decisions were made and why some proposals failed; who was to blame, to whom belongs the credit.

There will be no aftermath of "steel boxes" of secret memoranda to serve a base and partisan purpose, to befog the truth, to prejudice public opinion and to aggrandize a few individuals.

The fire on Saturday afternoon, in which the Christian church building was destroyed, has again illustrated the fact that the water mains

on Gale street are not large enough. The first water on the fire was from the hydrants close to the building, and there was not sufficient pressure to get a stream of any force upon the roof of the building.

Slat's Diary

By ROSS FARQUHAR

Friday—ma sent me to the dentist after skool tonite to get a tooth fixed up with wax.

Saturday—was out in the ford with pa & he made a mistake & run in a iron telephone post & busted up the front end and unloaded us on the St. Pa looked up at the post & seen a sine on it witch sed Cars Stop Here. he turned to me & sed that is s sine that you can believe.

Sunday—had a good dinner acct. company was here. I eat a lot of beef loaf & pie & frute & then I ast for cake please. ma sed my gracious if you eat any more you will bust. I sed Well pass the cake & shut your eyes & stop your ears up.

Monday—I gess this is blew Monday for I seen ma was in a bad yumor when she slapped me for pulling wiskers out of the cats chin. She sed about the only thing sum men does for their wife is to keep them from being a old maid.

Tuesday—Pa sed he thinks he made a big discovery of how to run a ottomobel without gasoline. He says a gas meter will do it because it runs all the time he just got his gas bill today.

Wednesday—Jake & me was a coasting down the hill in my wagon & they was a man walking in front of us & just as we got in back of him he moved over & we glumped into him. & nocked him for 2 bases. he agreed he was going to set the officer on us but shux he never put out his hand so how cud we help our self.

Thursday—tonite the telephone rung & mrs. White ast ma to cum over & play 500 with a bunch of ladsy ma sed O I have nothing to wear. Mrs. White sed Come on over any ways. & she did & pa & me red a detective story & eat aples.

Some Plain Talk on Taxation

We are told by the politicians that the people are to blame for high taxes; they voted them upon themselves. If this is the fact, then the people can "unvote" them, and we would respectfully call attention to some matters that the people—the "tax voters"—should ponder over.

Is it reasonable that the people should have voluntarily increased the state taxes 521 per cent in ten years when the population has increased but 16 per cent and valuations only 23 per cent?

Is it reasonable that from 1919 to 1922 the people should have voluntarily increased their total state tax from \$3,021,402 to \$9,376,280, and to continue all political overhead at war levels?

Is it reasonable that the legislature should spend (or waste in other words) \$43,331 on clerks for a forty day session—over \$1000 per day. Why should the legislature keep up this pernicious demoralization of young people when experts could be secured to do the work much better for an expenditure of around \$7,000.

Why waste money paying five to ten dollars per day for overtime for incompetent people as legislative clerks when it can be done right for less?

When the farmers are taking a deflation of fifty per cent and the wages of labor and the profits of business are cut in two; when the cost of living has come down from 30 to 40 per cent, why not reduce the cost of public service at least 25 percent?

When the state of Washington has abolished 72 boards and commissions and effected a saving of \$2,600,000 why retain them all in Oregon?

Washington has consolidated all boards and commissions under ten heads appointed by the governor and responsible to the people; Idaho has abolished boards and commissions and adopted the cabinet system with seven heads named by the governor and responsible to the people. Why not Oregon follow this example?

Why should Oregon retain an obsolete system of tax-levying and money-squandering boards and commissions, all interested in more appropriations?

The special session of the legisla-

ture had the immaculate gall to introduce bills for five different forms of tax, and this on top of all other taxes.

The last legislature appropriated \$10,000 to create a commission "to ascertain new sources of revenue," in addition to all present taxes.

The legislature before spent \$20,000 on a commission to find ways to consolidate the commissions. They spent the money and then quit.

The last legislature enacted over four hundred laws, many of them raising salaries, creating new offices, raising fees, etc.

Shall these same leaders be rewarded for their tax-boosing labors by being given more power and higher offices when they promised reductions?

New state institutions are to be fastened upon the people, and there is a program on the skids to raise official salaries at least \$100,000 a year.

Think these things over. It will be up to the people to vote for candidates who have qualifications recommending them as being able to carry out a retrenchment program.

Railway Travel Growing Safer

Thirty years ago, Mr. Average American, you took eight annual railway journeys, and now you take twelve. Then you rode twenty-four miles each trip, and now you go thirty-eight miles.

Notwithstanding you ride half as many more times now, half again farther each trip and doubtless spend half as much more time in railway travel, yet the danger to your life is less than half as great as it used to be.

If you have ridden once in the last 33 years, your chances of being killed were one in 91,000,000, or, if you have taken one trip each year during that period, you came as near losing your life as one is near to 2,760,000. One ride taken last year imposed a hazard on your life of only one in 5,673,000, and on your twelve customary journeys you were as far from jeopardy as 473,000 is greater than 1.

Altogether, the railways of the United States carried in 1920 about 1,390,000,000 passengers, with one killed for each group of 5,673,000 carried, while in a total of 472,000,000 people carried in 1889, the death rate was one in 1,523,000. The danger to life of railway travelers in 1920 was therefore less than one-third of what it was in 1889, most of the reduction occurring since 1907.

To be sure, there have been very bad years, and exceptionally good years, but the general trend throughout the whole period has been decidedly towards

the increasing safety of the traveling public.

The foregoing figures are the result of statistics compiled and issued by the Interstate Commerce commission.

Flirting With the Income Tax

An expensive commission is having an expensive investigation made and will have a voluminous report printed costing in all possibility \$20,000.

They have \$10,000 to investigate with, clear back to the days of Adam Smith, and it will cost as much more to print their findings and submit their bills to a popular vote.

The legislature and legislative commissions have become too much of a joke to be taken seriously and anything that a lot of tax experts employed by the legislature prepares will be voted down.

It does not seem to occur to the experts that what the ordinary citizen and manager of a business or industry wants is less taxation and regulation of his property instead of more inquisitions and new taxes.

On top of the proposition to put over a duplication of the federal income tax for state revenue there will be the Single Tax on the ballot and Oregon is to be the experimental ground of economic theories.—The Manufacturer.

Usually after a business depression a man doesn't care how quick the business "comes back" or how fast the stuff he has to sell increases in market value.

John Kilkenny of Heppner, Or., however, is an exception. Mr. Kilkenny is in the sheep business. He runs a mere trifle of about 20,000 sheep, so it can be understood that he watches the game and is interested in whatever happens in the industry.

At the Imperial yesterday Mr. Kilkenny expressed the fear that the sheep business is coming back too fast. He thinks it would be better if the return to higher prices would come more gradually than by the sudden jump which has characterized it within the past few weeks.

Lambs, he explained, have more than doubled in value recently. Not long ago lambs could be bought for \$2.50—any amount of them—and the other day lambs, sheared, were sold for \$8 a head, which is indicative of the way the sheep business is moving.

Wool, too, said Mr. Kilkenny, is going up faster than he cares to see it; he wants a high price for wool, naturally, but he would prefer that the quotation moved upward more sedately. "I never lost confidence in the sheep business," he says, "even when it

was shot to pieces and the bottom had dropped out of it, for I realized that it would improve—it had to—although a lot of sheepmen have had a hard struggle holding on."—Oregonian.

Mrs. J. C. Dodson returned from Heppner Friday where she spent a month visiting relatives. Her brother, Jesse Kirk, has had several strokes of paralysis and is barely able to move about his home.

Mrs. Dodson says the Morrow county metropolis has been experiencing some real winter weather although there was not as much snow as there now is in Joseph. A niece, Mrs. Lulu Bassett, who was to have accompanied Mrs. Dodson home for a visit, arrived Saturday.

Mrs. Bassett's home is in California and she is visiting relatives in the Northwest. She was at Heppner while Mrs. Dodson was there.—Joseph Herald.

"They are paying a dollar on every sheep to hold the wool," observed W. B. Barratt of Morrow county, sheepman and a member of the state highway commission, "and they are charging no interest. I have contracted all of my wool at a very satisfactory figure. The sheep industry is looking good." Having contracted for this season's clip, Mr. Barratt came to Portland to confer with a couple of officials of the forest bureau from Washington, D. C., and to get into action for the regular monthly meeting of the commission, which opens today.—Oregonian.

Rats Kill Calves.

R. C. Rasmussen, a farmer living near Stanfield, has lost four calves as the result of attacks by big wharf rats, according to information brought here to County Agent Fred Bennion. The calves were attacked at night while in their lot by the hungry rodents, it is believed, and the skin on the calves' legs was chewed by the rats until the arteries and veins were all cut.

Death usually resulted the day following. That such attacks have not been uncommon is a statement of Mr. Bennion. A strychnine poisoning process is used in getting rid of the pests. Recently Rasmussen was awakened during the night to find that young pigs were being chased by the hungry rats.—East Oregonian.

Cifford H. Esselstyn has been appointed manager of the Tum-A-Lum yards at Echo and will arrive from Lexington today to take up the work. Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Esselstyn will leave Saturday for their new home at Hood River.—Echo News.

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Public Sale. I will sell at public auction at my place 1 1/2 miles northeast of Lexington and 1 1/2 miles east of the Artesian Wells on Sand Hollow, on Tuesday, February 28th. The following: 11 - Head of Horses and Mules - 11. Farm Implements and Machinery. Sale to Commence at 10 O'Clock A. M. Free Lunch at Noon. B. S. Clark, Owner. E. E. MILLER, Auctioneer -- F. H. ROBINSON, Clerk.

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