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Don't Scuttle the Public Schools

Some excellent things were said here yesterday by members of the state tax commission and others. The tax problem is a big one and there is urgent need of relief particularly for the man who owns farm land. There are ways of securing relief if the proper steps are taken but the East Oregonian will say frankly it looks askance at some of the suggestions made during the trip of the commission.

Ever since the committee started its hearings at Baker there have been covert attempts at a campaign of prejudice against the direct primary and against public education, particularly against the Oregon Agricultural college and the state university. This latter line of effort has shown up especially in the articles by John W. Kelly in the Oregonian and in talks by Coe McKenna, a member of the commission. The people of Oregon do not need any advice from these gentlemen upon this subject. If there are any corrective steps to be taken in connection with college finances these men are not the ones to suggest what should be done.

It is the function of a state to provide free public schools and the colleges are a logical and necessary part of our public school system. It is proper enough to charge tuition when students come from outside the state but it would not be good policy to charge tuition for Oregon students. The state that cannot maintain free public education for its young people is not entitled to statehood.

In connection with the tax reduction crusade, what is the idea of concentrating so strongly upon the schools? There is not a state school in Oregon that is proportionately as well provided for as are the inmates of the Eastern Oregon State Hospital. Why not look the field over and see if there are not other places where the tax reducers can do good work?

Are the timber lands of Oregon, aggregating many millions in value, bearing their just share of the taxes? Are the public service corporations, including the railroads, taxed as deeply as are the farmers? Have the paving corporations that have had so much business under our \$40,000,000 road program paid their just share of taxes. The commission might profitably look into these matters also.

Nor is there any sense in the theory expressed by some that the direct primary has been the cause of high taxes. The tax situation is just as severe in boss ridden states as in Oregon. The situation is nation wide, in fact it is world wide. Taxes are grievous because business and industry are depressed. As to what caused the collapse opinions differ but it is a fact that it followed quickly on the heels of the rejection of the treaty of Versailles. In a critical hour the world was left bewildered and leaderless and economic chaos followed. We are now paying the price but we are not going to escape by scuttling the public school system. We can do considerable to relieve taxation and it should be done. But in a way the really big problem is beyond our control.

There is no local remedy for a world wide disease.—East Oregonian.

When the Grower Suffers

The statistical division of the Northwest Wheat Growers associated in an article this week tells how official estimates of wheat production issued by European governments last year greatly exaggerated the probable yields.

During the time the American farmers were disposing of their products, reports from almost every European government declared record yields were in view, and that the demand for American grain would be small at best. But later, as the statistical division of the cooperative organization points out, every one of these nations with the exception of Great Britain backed up from its former statements and "applied the shears."

The evil effect of these exaggerated estimates upon the American farmer clearly can be seen when we recall how such misinformation is received by boards of trade in this country.

Responsive as the needle of a compass, fluctuating upward or downward to every rumor of increased or decreased demand, the wheat markets in America were crowded down, by these incorrect European reports. Millions of dollars were lost to American wheat producers last year by overestimates of European production.

It is time producers of wheat pro-

vided their own crop and market news. It is time they ceased to depend for their information upon those whose interests are flatly opposed to the interests of the man who produces the wheat. It is time they ceased to depend upon a mechanism so unstable that it reacts like a weather vane to every rumor of crop condition throughout the world.—The Producer.

The Gentle Art of "Slick-ering"

Time and again America's great metropolis, New York, has laughed at the "country rube" who visiting the big town, has fallen in with the city slicker and returned to his home town with a block of stock in the Brooklyn Bridge, which has been sold to him, or a brick of "gold" that has "stood actual test in an assay office" and is later found to have been plugged. Now, however, the laugh is on the city man himself. It has remained for Irving T. Bush—guardian angel of struggling business humanity and among the most advanced of free publicity seekers—to turn the trick on a number of the most astute business men in New York. The scheme it appears has been pulled off in connection with the Bush Terminal Building that stands in the heart of the world's busiest business centre, 42nd Street and Broadway, 30 stories high and almost piercing the clouds. The result is the preparation of a law suit of no mean proportion, but in the meantime the philanthropic Mr. Bush sits, smiles and awaits a gold medal as the champion slicker of America.

Big business men flocked into the Bush Terminal Building, paying for office space as high as \$5 or \$6 a square foot. The price was staggering, but to offset it Mr. Bush dedicated two floors of the building for the use of his tenants. He provided a wonderful restaurant on the ground floor, luxurious lounging quarters for the Buyers' Club, consisting of the tenants and their business visitors. Then there were rest rooms, telephones, conference rooms and all the other surroundings of New York luxury offered free to the rent payers. The Bush Terminal was a veritable business paradise and the 30 stories were soon filled. No corners the second reel. Having hooked the tenants up with long leases at rents that would break the average business man, Mr. Bush rolled up his philanthropic cloak and put it away in camphor. Without consulting the tenants, he closed the club, tore down the restaurant, abolished the magnificent entrance, and turned the space into rentable quarters, from which it is expected to rake in another \$90,000 a year.

Visitors from out of town now look in vain for the entrance to the great Bush Terminal Building, but it is only about 3 feet wide and can't be found except by an explorer. The only mark of identification is a little revolving barber pole sign on the building next door. The injury to the business of the tenants is said to run into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Perhaps the city man will now realize that the "country rube" is not the only fellow who suffers from inability to match wits with the slicker.

Slats' Diary

By ROSS FARQUHAR

Friday—Pa has got a new pair of shoes with he calls them his Squeak or Leak shoes. If they are dry they squeak and if they are wet they Leak. Pa says ole Man Hix is so stingy he goes up the stairs two steps at a time in order so that he can save his shoes from wearing out but he had bad Luck yesterday having split a \$5 pair of Pants to save his four \$ and a 1-2 shoes.

Saturday—Me and Jake went out a long the Crick today to hunt Mush rats to sell there hide. We tramped all morning but we dident find Nothing. In fact we was exceedingly Lucky to find any way back.

Sunday—Coming out of Sunday skool today Jane sed to me that my Ears are so big that when she looks as me from the Back I remind her of a Loveing Cup. I have come to a conclusion that Women is all alike except that they got diffrent Names.



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Monday—Ma sed we are going to stay at Home evry nite this week of with I am glad of it because now I wont half to worry about washing my teeth so much.

Tuesday—Blisters and me had a dog fite tonite. That is I kicked his dog and then he kicks mine and I pulled his dogs ears and he pulls my dogs ears and then I pinched his dog and he pinched mine but finely I puts I over on him. I pulled his dogs tale. Mine is a Bob tale dog and hassent got no tale a tall to speak of and any ways he wont let nobody pull his tale.

Wednesday—Teacher was tawking about are great men like Washington and Lincoln and she ast of Jake in what ways was they both like each other and Jake replied & sed that they was both woodmen. She sed How and he sed Washington chopped down Cherry trees & Lincoln split Rales before they got into Polatix.

Thursday—A new boy cum to skool today witch's name was Harvey Davis. Teacher ast him what was his ma's name and he told her Mrs. John Wilson. She sed how cum your ma has got a name opposite from you and he sed his ma got married over for the 2nd time witch diddent have no affect on him as yet.

The Blue Mountain Eagle man ran across one of the old-timers of this section, while in The Dalles a week or so ago, and says: "Billy Tillard was a character who was well known throughout this county some twenty and thirty years ago. The writer met him last week at The Dalles and he said that he wanted to be remembered to all his old time friends here. He is planning to be here for the '62 celebration. He has a lot of the old gambling paraphernalia that comes down from pioneer days and he will probably bring them with him."

Mike McCabe was in the city on Friday to enjoy the St. Patrick's day celebration and meet with old-time friends. He is located near Mitchell, where he has a ranch and is running sheep. A long winter has been experienced, but having plenty of feed, the stockmen out that way have pulled through in good shape. The break in bad weather came just in the nick of time, however, as hay stacks were just about all consumed. Mike was engaged in the sheep business in Morrow county before going to Wheeler county.

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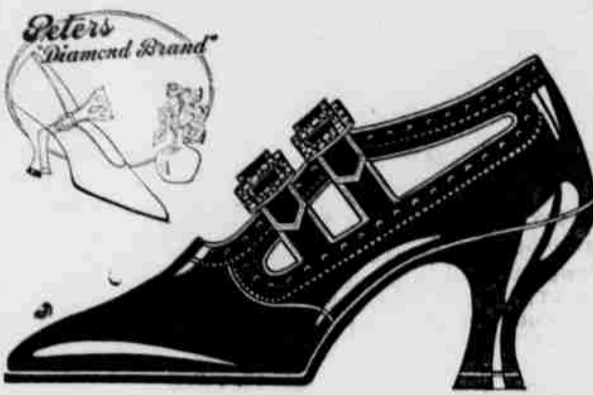
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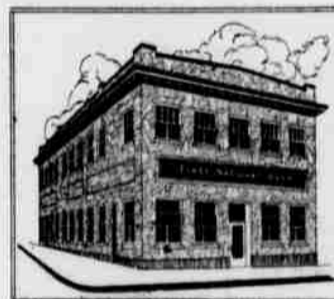
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