

EDITORIAL

That Auto Tax Again

It is always pleasant news to learn that right in the midst of a big financial campaign to obtain funds to finance the war, the government must come along with a demand for some petty tax that most of us would forget about, or would like to forget, if those whose duty it is to collect were not such good prodders. Right now the treasury department, aside from gathering in \$14,000,000,000 to carry on the effort to scrap the Jap war machine, is putting forth an effort to see that every owner of an automobile, truck, motorcycle or bus which is used on the public highway after July 1, 1945 buys a five dollar auto use tax stamp and places the same in the upper left-hand corner of the inside of the windshield. If you fail to buy the stamp and so display it, you'd better look out—a revenue man will get you and you won't get off for five bucks, more than likely.

With automobiles going out of commission at the rate of 4,000 cars daily it can readily be seen that the government is taking a loss on this source of revenue. Consequently it is expected that every car in use will display the sticker. Your local postoffice has them for sale. Get yours today, or tomorrow at the latest.

What About Sugar?

People of the Pacific coast states are wondering why thousands of tons of fruit will be left to spoil this season due to lack of sugar with which to process their products. Strong protests have been sent from the state of Washington and it is presumed that Oregon will join in the chorus, but whether this will cause a change of policy by the OPA remains to be seen.

For the benefit of Gazette Times readers, a statement by Representative Lowell Stockman, member of the Republican Congressional Food Study committee, is reprinted elsewhere in this issue. It is a strong indictment of OPA bungling and inefficiency in those places where the policies are formulated and Mr. Stockman's statements have been affected as well as the countrymen will be appreciated by people whose business is at large.

The general tendency of the OPA and other wartime agencies has been to dictate. The demand from these agencies has been for the people to cooperate with them. There has been no thought that the best way to accomplish the aims for which the agencies were created is for those agencies to try to cooperate a bit with the people. We have seen what happened in Europe when dictators made blunders. They covered up their

mistakes by blaming the people. One would not have to go far back in history in this country to recall similar actions. And so it is in the present case. Given almost autocratic power, the OPA and similar agencies often go beyond the bounds of reason and when they realize their policies are not working they dodge behind a smoke screen of accusation against the people. Now they accuse the housewife of chiseling on canning sugar last season!

However, Congressman Stockman and his committee have access to facts the portent of which are more or less conjectural to Mr. John Citizen and you will enjoy reading what he has to say on the present sugar set-up.

Less Civilian Rail Travel

To a travel-hungry public, shifting of all war activities to the Pacific area means just one thing—a longer wait to resume travel by railroad and bus. If we thought the transportation facilities were overcrowded during the two-front war we had not seen the ultimate in freight and passenger operation by the western lines. They are now called upon to transport returning troops and equipment from Europe and this means that civilians will have to settle back and wait until the Japs are put under control.

Nothing but urgent business, sickness or injury should induce civilians to seek rail transportation these days. The situation may improve in a few months but it is likely that those not directly concerned with the war effort will find it necessary to seek other means of travel than the railroads for many months to come.

We are still fighting a war—a desperate war. It is stated that forces of as many as 7,000,000 men will be concentrated against the Japs. Not all of these forces in addition to those already in the Pacific area will be transported from Pacific coast ports, but hundreds of thousands of them will pass this way. The railroads are overtaxed and no matter how much you yearn to hear the clicking of the wheels over the rails it will be best to exercise patience until the railroad companies announce their desire to transport civilians.

A commendable bit of work is being done by the city in cleaning grass and debris off of the "no-man's land" between walks and curbs along main street and clearing off grass and weeds from gutters on side streets. If property owners will follow up this improvement by concreting the vacant strips it will do away with the necessity of removing unsightly growth and collection of dirt.

Committees Named For Health Work

At a recent meeting of the Morrow county health association the following committees were appointed.

Seal sale, Mrs. Kenneth House, Mrs. Oscar Rippee, Heppner; Mrs. Orville Cutsforth, Lexington, Mrs. Omar Rietmann, Ione.

Publicity chairman, Mrs. Harold Becket.

Health activity: Mrs. Tress Mc-

Clintock, chairman, Mrs. Cassidy, Boardman, Mrs. Alena Anderson, Eight Mile.

Educational chairman, Mrs. Stephen Thompson, Mrs. J. G. Thomson, Jr., Mrs. Turner, Mrs. Claude Coats, A. C. Houghton, B. C. Forsythe, Mrs. Verle Frederickson, Mrs. Marion Finch and Mrs. Algott Lundell.

Supply chairman, Mrs. Frank Connor.

Membership: John Saager, Mrs. Harry Van Horn, Crystal Barlow,

Mrs. Orville Cutsforth, Mrs. Omar Rietmann, Mrs. John Bergstrom and Mrs. W. E. Hughes.

WANTED—Alarm clock. Frank Engkraf, OK Tire Welders. 12c

Mrs. Cletus Nichols and son John of Portland have been spending a week or so visiting in the county. They came last week to visit Mrs. Nichols' brother, CPO Tom Wells and are visiting other relatives in Lexington this week. Mrs. Nichols is the former Helen Wells of Heppner.

COME AND GET IT

Miss Margaret Gillis, county health nurse, found a child's sweater coat at the school house after the clinic Thursday. The owner may have same by calling at the Gazette Times office.

Mrs. A. J. Chaffee and cousin, Mrs. Ethel Zeimantz, returned Monday from Portland where they spent a week visiting and shopping. They report the weather cold and rainy in the city.

Mrs. Edna Turner left Saturday to spend the week-end with her sister at North Powder. She was enroute to Kansas City, Mo. for a short visit and will return to Greeley Colo. to attend summer school at the University of Colorado.

Mrs. John Saager is attending buyers week for drug stores in Portland this week selecting stock for the Christmas trade for Gordon's Drug store.



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Heppner City Council

Meets First Monday Each Month Citizens having matters for discussion, please bring before Council

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Publisher and Editor

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