

# EDITORIAL

## Trying To Wreck Railroads?

C. E. Johnson, chairman of the Western Association of Railway Executives, is authority for the statement that if the bill now before the U. S. Senate expanding retirement payments to railway workers becomes the pattern for the national social security system, it will "wreck the country's economy and produce widespread unemployment instead of security."

The cost of providing corresponding payments for all workers and their dependents under social security is estimated at 20 billion dollars a year. Johnson points out some of the expensive features of the bill which recently passed the House. "The pending bill," he said, "would increase the cost to the railroads for retirement and unemployment insurance by approximately 100 million dollars a year. It would, in effect, amount to another pay increase to employees who recently received an increase of 18½ cents per hour, adding 725 million dollars a year to the railway payroll, and bringing the railway wage level to more than 50 percent higher than it was at the beginning of the war."

Mr. Johnson pointed out that these increased costs have to be passed along to the public, so that workers under the general social security law would be contributing to the cost of benefits for railway workers and their dependents which they themselves do not enjoy. The bill includes a new program of life insurance annuities for survivors of employees, former employees and retired employees, also insurance against non-occupational illness; accident, pregnancy and maternity; and extends the coverage to many persons who have only an incidental connection with the railway industry. . . . Total taxes on railroad payrolls provided in the pending measure for pensions, insurance and unemployment would be 15¼ percent, 6¼ to be paid by the employees and 9¼ by the railroads. Actuarial studies by disinterested parties have shown that even this high tax would not be sufficient to support the extravagant benefits provided by the bill and that a tax of almost one-fifth of the payroll would be required to provide sufficient funds.

This looks like an attempt to legislate the railroads out of business. It shows how far towards socialism this country has drifted and to what extent labor groups feel their strength. . . . With a congressional election in the offing they are pressing their demands for certain measures with the hope that their objectives may be attained before the complexion of the House and Senate changes too much. However, this measure may fail to get past the Senate and a House made up many new faces might not be sympathetic toward such a broad socialistic measure.

## We Know Not What We Have

This writer has heard Californians remark about Wallowa Lake and other Oregon beauty spots, "If we had this in California we would tell the world about it." And there is no doubt about that being done. In order to get easterners interested in Crater Lake, Californians have had to

claim that famed natural wonder with the result that countless thousands of people east of the Rockies labor under the impression that the lake is located in California.

It remained for California movie interests to come up here and sell Oregon to Oregonians. It has been handsomely done in Walter Wanger's "Canyon Passage," movie version of the Ernest Haycox novel of that name. The story has its entire locale in Oregon and the picture was shot with Oregon scenery as the back ground. People of the state who have not visited Crater Lake and other lakes of the Cascade skyline will surely get the urge to do some Oregon traveling after seeing "Canyon Passage." Done in technicolor, all of the natural beauty of mountains, lakes and streams is faithfully recorded. The story is based on the early days in historic old Jacksonville. A good cast, an excellent story and superb scenery make this a "must" for all Oregonians.

## An Argument For Sales Tax

Oregon voters will have the privilege of accepting or rejecting the basic school support fund bill sponsored jointly by the Oregon Congress of Parents and Teachers, Oregon State Association of School Boards, the Oregon Educational Association and Ronald T. Jones. The measure will be up for consideration at the November election.

There seems to be a likelihood that the measure will pass. It has an appealing slogan—"equal opportunity for every school child." It likewise will pose a big question for the legislature which will be charged with the duty of devising the means of financing the new program which calls for an additional \$15,000,000. The petitioners have devised the measure without recommendation as to the method of financing. They estimated that 13.9 mills would be sufficient. On the basis of the 1945 valuations this would come a little short of the mark and the computation was made at 14 mills, which would raise \$15,180,262.03.

This is a considerable amount to raise and just where the legislature will find the source is one of the unanswered questions. Property has been just about taxed to the limit and any thought of increasing burdens on property owners should be withheld until all other avenues have been probed.

The 1945 pupil census of Morrow county was 1158. At \$50 per pupil the county will get \$57,900. At 14 mills the taxpayers will contribute \$118,695.51, or the percentage received of the amount paid will be 48.8. Rather expensive, is it not?

There is one source of taxation not yet in effect in this state—one that has been successful in neighboring states but rejected repeatedly by Oregon—the sales tax. Like the gasoline tax, a sales tax on certain commodities would increase the state's revenues and property owners and non-property owners alike would pay their share. From this distance it looks like the sales tax will have to be dusted off and trotted out for another heat at the polls. Passage of the basic school bill would seem to warrant adoption of a sales tax measure, or, in other words, if you favor the school bill you should also favor a sales tax.

## PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

**HEPPNER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
Meets Every Monday Noon at the Lucas Place

**Veterans of Foreign Wars**  
Meetings 2nd and 4th Mondays at 8:00 p. m. in Legion Hall

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**Heppner City Council**  
Meets First Monday Each Month  
Citizens having matters for discussion, please bring before the Council  
J. O. TURNER, Mayor

**Morrow County Abstract & Title Co.**  
INC.  
ABSTRACTS OF TITLE  
TITLE INSURANCE  
Office in Peters Building

**Merchants Credit Bureau**  
Accurate Credit Information  
F. B. Nickerson  
Phone 12 Heppner

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**DR. S. E. ALLEN**  
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225 Byers St. Pendleton, Ore.  
1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at Dr. R. C. Lawrence's  
Office in Heppner

Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Dix are going to Portland Saturday to be in attendance at the annual Dix family reunion Sunday. They will be accompanied by their granddaughter JoJean.

## T. C. DOWNS

Certified Sonotone Consultant will conduct a

## HEARING CENTER

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Heppner, Oregon  
Thursday  
July 25

How much will the remarkable new Sonotone "600" and continuing service help your hearing? Full audiometric tests and consultation FREE—Come in!  
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Our shop is new, cool and comfortable.

We are proud of our Beauty Aids, and our workmanship is of the best.

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## To Our Friends:

We cannot retire from business without expressing our pleasure in having had the privilege of enjoying so many years of pleasant business relations with the people of this community. We will miss greeting all of you, and especially the school children and little tots whose daily visits to the store to buy candy, gum, pop, etc. brought brightness into our lives.

To each and every one of you we say "Thank You" and wish you continued prosperity and happiness.

Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Huston

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Pendleton and return, \$12.50; 1 Hr. 20 minutes  
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Our refrigeration department is in charge of Mr. Otto Steinke, a World War II veteran, from Arlington, Ore.

For Service—Phone 2482

NOTE—We are holding prices to the June 30 level and will continue to do so as long as wholesale prices are maintained at that level.

## Heppner Hardware and Electric Company

Mrs. Blaine Chapel was in from the Hardman section recently and reports wheat ripening rapidly in that vicinity.

Mr. and Mrs. Ora Furlong are here from Portland for a few days at the home of Buzz's parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Furlong.

## Transferring & Heavy Hauling

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## We Will Do Our Best To Hold Prices Down to a Decent Level

We will make every effort to maintain the price levels in effect prior to June 30. There will be some commodities over which we will have no control, but our policy will be to hold every item down pending clarification of the present price control situation.

There is no cause for alarm, either as to prices or supplies. Buy what you normally would—what you need from day to day—and we will all get along in good shape.

## Central Market and Grocery

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Tricycles, up to . . . \$12.50

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## Case Furniture Company