



EDITORIAL



ASSESSMENT ROIL IRONED

The state tax commission and the Clackamas county equalization board this week found the bug that has been causing most of the property assessment protests.

The trouble is that there have not been enough deputy assessors to do a complete job of appraising the whole county each year. With inadequate help it has been the practice in many counties to adjust valuations over only a portion of the county each year and take the assessment of the previous year for the rest of the county. Often this left one part of the county with higher assessments than the other.

The commission decided that in as much as 60 property owners of North Clackamas county showed that valuations of their property and that of others in the same district had been boosted as much as 200 percent in many instances and that the boost had not been made over all the county this year, that the 1949 assessment valuations should be used this year instead of the 1950 assessment.

PRINTERS HIGHEST PAID

Wages of Oregon workers are higher than ever before and printers are the highest paid group in the state, the state bureau of labor statistics and the state unemployment compensation commission reported this week.

The average earnings of production workers last month touched an all-time high of \$1.75 an hour or \$68.79 a week in Oregon. In Washington the average was slightly lower. In printing and publishing workers averaged \$7.15 for a 35.3 hour week; plywood workers came next with \$7.97, all record high wages.

NEW PRISON WALL

Completion of the new concrete wall enclosing the main buildings of the Oregon State penitentiary at Salem was announced this week by prison warden George Alexander. The wall is of concrete construction and 25 feet high. Construction was started nearly two years ago.

Modern floodlights installed on the new wall give guards a clear view of the entire enclosure which covers a total of seven acres.

Guards have moved into the new wall towers and the old wall has been torn down.

FRUIT CROP NORMAL

The severe freeze of last winter won't create any fruit shortage, Ray A. Yocum of Chicago, vice-president of Consolidated Grocers corporation and former manager of Salem's Reed-Murdoch cannery, told Governor McKay last week when visiting his long-time friend and fellow townsman.

Yocum said that nearly all canneries will probably produce a slimmer pack than last year, but that the 1950 output would be fair and that there would be sufficient fruit to supply the public demand.

BUDWORM KILL SUCCESSFUL

The DDT treatment is proving highly successful in halting the timber-destroying spruce budworm infestation in Oregon.

Tests made on the 27,913 acres of timber in the Roseburg Springfield area show that the treatment is averaging 97.5 per cent effective. Estimates were based upon inspections made just prior to treatment by the Oregon State forestry department and then two weeks following the spraying. In treating the area 29,500 gallons of DDT were used.

The total cost of the project was \$24,212.44, or 86.5 cents an acre.

SCHOOL FUNDS INCREASE

The state land board will distribute to the school districts of Oregon approximately \$252,000 this year, E. T. Pierce, clerk of the board, announced Monday. This sum represents the earnings of the board for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1950. Checks to the districts will be mailed early in July.

The 1949-1950 count of school children in the state is 364,495. The 1948-1949 count was 349,777. Pierce left this week for Denver, where he will attend the annual convention of land commissioners June 22-24.

FOUR GOVERNORS A WEEK

When Governor McKay started to Virginia Sunday, the 11th, Senate President William Walsh became governor pro tem. When Walsh left for Fort Lewis, Wash., on Friday, Speaker of the House Frank Van Dyke succeeded Walsh. Van Dyke left for Los Angeles Saturday and the gubernatorial duties went to Secretary of State Earl T. Newberry who served from 10:30 a.m. Saturday until 1:30 p.m. Sunday.

30 Years Ago

At the residence of Rev. Carl Doney, president of Willamette University in Salem, Wednesday, June 16, occurred the marriage of Ray M. Taylor and Miss Loa Briggs. Mr. and Mrs. Leon W. Briggs, parents of the bride, were present at the wedding.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Olden of Fairview, accompanied by Mrs. Olden's son, Jesse Dobyns, enjoyed a pleasant family reunion on Sunday at the home of Mrs.

Flood Control Work Due

Information as to when the flood control work mentioned in a recent dispatch from the national capital might be expected is totally lacking in Heppner, but there is no lack of evidence that such work is needed. Ranchers along Rock Creek and Rhea Creek, including tributary streams, can testify that something should be done to check the mad rush of water resulting from heavy rains and cloudbursts—something of a permanent nature assuring them they may continue their activities with a feeling of security that their buildings will not be washed away and their crops destroyed. The anxiety always felt in Heppner and up and down Willow Creek when black clouds gather in the south is something that can be understood only by those who have experienced the terrible destruction wrought by flash floods.

Since the President clipped Heppner from the list of approved projects so far as the proposed dam above town is concerned, there is considerable speculation as to what was meant by flood control. Will there be a series of dams along the creeks traversing this region? Will the work start at the highest point and lead down to the lower levels?

It has been suggested that a series of earthen dams at strategic points along the creeks would serve to check the serious effects of flash storms. There is no doubt about the effectiveness of this type of flood control and it is hoped that funds will be provided the Soil Conservation Service to carry out at least part of the program planned in that direction.

There is still one thing that sticks in the editorial craw regarding the proposed Heppner dam. If it were built and there never came a time when it would be called upon to hold back the flood waters of a flash storm, it would still pay its way as a storage reservoir dam, something to hold back the run-off waters to be distributed over thirsty acres of valley and benches that could easily be reached between Heppner and the Columbia river. Right at this moment the Columbia is at flood stage. It is not as high as it was in 1948, but it is high and certainly doesn't need even the infinitesimal volume of Willow Creek to carry on down towards the sea. Yet that small amount of water would be of inestimable value to the ranchers when the heat of summer with its accompanying parching winds turns crops yellow and creates shortages of feed for both human and livestock consumption. It may come some day, especially if many more people move into this section of Eastern Oregon and there is a demand for breaking up the larger ranches along the creek. Such a thing has happened in other places and it can happen here.

What Is There To Promise?

In the light of the promises made by those claiming membership in the Democratic party, ranging from the head man at Washington clear down to precinct committeeman, there appears little left for Republican candidates to offer the voters. That's the advantage accruing to the party in power for if so disposed the officials are in better position to not only promise but to back up the promises so long as they are for vote-getting only.

The Republican party on a national basis has been on the outside looking in for nigh on to eighteen years and in that time the so-called Democratic party has been expanding its hold on the lives of the people (giving them everything they ask for and charging it to them in taxes). But so far the Republicans have been unable to hold out any inducements to offset the generosity of the spenders of the people's money and about all that is left to them is to spearhead the attack against the growing trend of the planners to direct the country down the path to socialism.

If the GOP can accomplish the somewhat herculean task of staving off the welfare state and restoring the government to its constitutional status, it will be going a long way towards revitalizing the independent spirit of the people. That is something that must be done in a large measure at the forthcoming fall election. It can be done if the voters will weigh carefully the promises of the candidates who advocate the true deal program, which is nothing more than socialism as already in vogue elsewhere in the

world. If they will but remember that every social reform instituted since the beginning of the Roosevelt administration has meant an increase in the tax burden, and that all of these so-called reforms have been more a matter of political expediency than a heartfelt desire to bring benefits to the people, they will realize that it is time to accept a new ideology.

So far as the political set-up in Oregon is concerned, there is no need for making a change. Our state today is in better condition financially than either the neighbor to the north or the neighbor to the south. Yet these states have had dollars in federal grants where Oregon has had but pennies. The only unhappy people in the state are the so-called Democratic politicians who have found it difficult to supplant the Republican regime. From the early start made by some of the Democratic candidates it is plain to see that an all-out effort will be made to convince the people that they should surrender what little of independence they have to the boys who have such wonderful plans for our future under the glorious welfare state. Perhaps there are enough new Democrats in the state to bring this about—and it wouldn't be the first time Oregon has gone Democratic—but the trend has been to hold to the Republican line in state affairs while voting for Roosevelt four times straight and finally drifting back into the Republican column in 1948.

As said earlier in this article, the Democrats have a monopoly on the promises, but the Republicans can throttle a lot of those promises by conducting a straightforward campaign on Americanism, by preaching the doctrine that the government is the servant of the people rather than their master.

Noble Intentions Are not Enough

When a socialist party takes over the government of a country, it may have the noblest of intentions. It may be passionately devoted to the ideal of making life better for everyone. But, in practice, and regardless of the probity and purpose of the men in control, it always winds up by regimenting the energies and resources of the nation, and weakening the fibres of the people, says an exchange.

A particularly good example of that is found in England, and we need not turn to Conservative Party spokesman for evidence. Four years ago, on May 6, 1946, an influential member of the Labor Party, Ivor Thomas, said in Commons: "Today, over a wide field, private enterprise has become a stumbling block to economic advance. In the new Renaissance the new and potent instruments which science has placed in the hands of man are matched by a new and fruitful principle; the principle of public enterprise based on the service of the many instead of the private profit of the few; a principle which is as much in advance of private enterprise as private enterprise was of the feudal guild."

At that time, Labor had newly come to power, and Mr. Thomas looked to the future with utter confidence. But disillusionment came fast. In another speech before Commons, made in October 27, 1948, he said: "The most obvious result of the Government's activities in the past three years has been an immense concentration of power in the hands of the State and a corresponding weakening of the power of the individual to stand for himself. The itching fingers of the planners cannot leave well enough alone. Their grasping hands stretch far beyond the confines of industry to the man who wants to run up a building for himself and the woman who keeps a pig, or a few hens, in her backyard. On top of the universal control of economic life, the Government is now wiping out the last vestiges of independence by confiscatory taxation."

"For long I had hoped that a Labour Party, pledged to sensible courses of reform, would be the best bulwark against the evil flood of Communism. Today, I regret to see that it is no bulwark, but a leaky dam."

What England has learned the hard way, we can learn by example. It may seem a small matter to you if the government takes over some great industry—power, communications, steel, or any other. But when government owns or controls great industry, it inevitably reaches out and until it controls agriculture, labor, small business—in a word, everything. Then liberty withers, and the stage is set for the dictator.

W. T. Smith, an aunt of Mrs. Olden's, at Estacada.

The people of Heppner are to enjoy the Chautauqua another year when more than sufficient tickets were contracted for next year's feature.

Jimmie Davis, son of Mrs. Mary Davis of Ritter Springs hotel, succumbed to the bite of a rattlesnake last Friday, just 22 hours after being bitten.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Chris P. Brown on Thursday, June 17, a

son weighing nine pounds.

Born at their home in Portland a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Terah Mahoney on June 5.

Another June wedding occurred in Heppner last Saturday evening when Marcie Mary, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Winnard became the bride of Arthur E. Miller of LaGrande.

The annual school election Monday was a quiet affair. W. P. Mahoney was elected to succeed W. B. Barratt and Vawter

Crawford was reelected clerk.

Mal Church this week disposed of his property in the northwest part of the city to Wm. Cunningham and will move to Hood River valley.

A special meeting will be held at the hall Saturday evening, June 24. EA degree. Be there! Harley Anderson, W. M.

ATTENTION MASONS!

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We Need Big Business

By George Peck

It has become a favorite pastime of our bureaucratic government to pick on Big Business. One of the companies selected for the greatest bureaucratic bombardment is the world's largest steel manufacturer—the United States Steel Corporation.

One wonders how these bureaucrats can overlook the splendid contribution made by U. S. Steel during World War II; how they can forget the sense of security every patriotic American felt that this corporation was ready to supply so much of the war material necessary to defeat our enemies.

This giant company did not just come into existence when the Japs struck Pearl Harbor. For many years prior thereto hundreds of thousands of investors had been pouring their savings into its coffers; its management had been planning and building its many plants, developing its "knowhow," and training its army of workers.

U. S. Steel was ready when the war came, and this one company proceeded to produce more steel than all the steel mills of Germany and Japan combined. Did we at that time hear anyone complain that "United States Steel was too big?"

Through its subsidiary Federal Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, U. S. Steel delivered destroyers and cruisers in unprecedented numbers, in addition to many merchant ships, tankers and auxiliary vessels. Did the Navy Department at that time consider that "United States Steel was too big?"

From the many laboratories of U. S. Steel came numerous new inventions to speed the war. One of these led to the production of steel runways by which even a body pasture was converted into a landing field for our heaviest airplanes. Did we hear any of our aviators at that time complain that "United States Steel was too big?"

In one week during World War II, a single U. S. Steel subsidiary produced enough steel for 7,000 light medium tanks; another turned out one million anti-aircraft shells 62 days ahead of schedule. Did any of our G.I.s at that time grumble that "United States Steel was too big?"

And for use here at home, in one of its plants, U. S. Steel, in the short period of only four months, made a 550-mile pipeline which speeded oil to the East to ease the burden on ships and trains. Did any one at that time object to this production feat because "United States Steel was too big?"

Those were but a few of the many production miracles performed by U. S. Steel during World War II. In 1942, its Board Chairman, Irving S. Olds, said: "Management and workers of the United States Steel have cooperated in attaining these noteworthy production results. Both properly can be proud of their joint contribution during the first year of the war."

Yes, the American public was practically unanimous in its belief that "Big Business was good business." That is, good for Americans. Hitler and Hirohito, however, did not share that enthusiastic approval; they found our American Big Business to be very bad.

Now, this nation is waging a cold war with Russia, and the threat of its developing into a hot third world war hangs heavily over our heads. We are spending billions of dollars to keep our own armed forces prepared; more billions to support and arm Europe. Are we going to permit our Washington bureaucrats to break up the big corporations that have provided the margin of victory in two previous conflicts?

Surely, the lessons learned in past wars should have taught us to keep our Big Business strong and vigorous. While we hope that never again will we have to call on Big Business to supply the sinews of war, let's have it on tap. As a matter of fact, our enemies will think long and hard before tangling with a nation that keeps its potential powder dry by encouraging, rather than attempting to disrupt, Big Business.

Pic SETTLES ON TOUR

Pfc Herbert Gene Settles, USMC son of Mr. and Mrs. Emery R. Settles of Heppner is serving aboard the heavy cruiser USS Saint Paul, which is scheduled to participate in the annual six week Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps Midshipmen Senior-Sophomore Pacific Fleet Cruise, beginning June 17.

Underway, ship and gunnery exercises will be conducted with simulated attacks being made on the cruise ships by "enemy" air, submarine, and surface craft.

Settles, who entered the Naval service in October, 1948, formerly attended Vancouver High school at Vancouver, Washington.

OFFICIAL HOARDING

The extent to which surplus inventories of stock are built up by some Federal Agencies was recently pointed out to the House Appropriations Committee by Jess Larson, General Administrator. He said one agency had a supply of tracing cloth which would last them 9 years, enough fluorescent light tubes to last 93 years, sufficient ruled filler paper to last 168 years and a stock of loose leaf binders which would last them 247 years.

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