

THE HERMISTON HERALD

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GOOD NEWS FOR THE PROJECT

The report which came over the wires from the national capital Monday brought great news to the Umatilla project. The 1923 budget which was submitted to congress carried an allotment of \$467,000 for the project of which \$230,000 is for the McKay creek dam.

This is what we have been waiting for these several years. The McKay creek dam means the watering of some 35,000 acres of land which is at present producing nothing because it has no water. Since there is at present only about 20,000 acres of land under water it will be seen that the new unit will nearly treble the strength and population of the

project. It should be remembered that the money has not yet been appropriated, though it undoubtedly will be in due time. The news means, not that the construction on McKay creek will start tomorrow or the next day, but that the government intends to put it through and will do so as soon as it can.

Construction will probably begin next year, but even if the delay should be a little longer than we anticipate, it is sure to begin in the not distant future and the project can feel assured of continued development.

The news this week is big and it is good. What we are waiting for

now is the adoption of the budget that will pave the way for work to begin.

REDUCING COUNTY TAXES

The county taxpayers league appears to have taken the tax bull by the horns. It recommends cuts in the budget that will if adopted reduce our taxes \$156,000 in the county. This is a lot of money and on first sight any plan that will reduce taxes to this extent looks good. But is it good? What will we lose to offset the gain?

In the first place it is proposed to save \$100,000 on county roads. We wonder about that saving. Are our roads now better than they ought to be? Have we really been spending too much for roads? Will we be better off than we are now if we stop improving our highways? Maybe we can reduce our road appropriation but we should not do so without being sure that the saving will be a real one.

The taxpayers league would save money by doing away with the county agent, the home demonstration agent and the prohibition officer. It would also reduce appropriations for some of the other county officers. The Herald holds no brief for the officials who may be severed from the pay roll of the county, but it does see a possible loss far exceeding the small gain to be made if their work is stopped. It may be the prohibition officer's work can be done better by the county sheriff and if so it should be given to him, but the enforcement of the prohibition act should not be suspended because it costs a few dollars. And anyway this office is practically supported by the fines it collects.

Then it is proposed to curtail the work of the county library system. This does not impress us as a forward step. Quite the opposite in fact.

The result of the whole matter is likely to be a discovery on the part of the tax payers that taxes cannot be sweepingly reduced without stopping public work which is worth far more than it costs. Taxes are higher than they used to be because the government is doing a great deal more for us than it used to do. The public is faced with the same difficulty that is now facing every owner of a private business. Income has been curtailed and he would like to cut expenses. He finds that the cuts he can afford to make are small after all. He can reduce if he wants to but he is likely to do so at the expense of the future of his enterprise. Therefore the business man hangs on. He contents himself with a small profit and "carries on," until times improve. This is likely to be what the county, state and nation will have to do.

This is not a condemnation of the work of the county taxpayers league which is sure to be productive of much good. It does us no harm to discuss these questions and we believe the league will cause some really desirable economies to be made. But we hope its program will not be adopted. Taxes would not be reduced enough to be noticeable and some of the valuable activities of the county would be crippled for years to come.

NOT SO SLOW AFTER ALL

A country weekly makes no boast of speed in handling general news. It leaves that to the city daily. Nevertheless when the big train wreck was the big news of the day last Thursday it was the Hermiston Herald that first told the news in Hermiston and on the rural routes leading out of Hermiston.

This paper was the only one containing a wreck story to go out on the R. F. D. from here Friday morning. The Portland and Pendleton papers did not arrive in time. So for once the home paper beat the city dailies to it in handling a big general story.

The taxpayers league has made at least one good suggestion about the 1925 fair appropriation. It should not be submitted to the people at a special election and the legislature which meets in special session this month should adjourn as quickly as possible.

At this writing it seems as if England and Ireland had reached an agreement. But will it last? The news seems almost too good to be true.

Just who lost the Arbuckle case we do not know but the lawyers won it.

Our own ambitious burg will soon have a chance to rival Portland in population if the people down there are not more successful in dodging automobiles.—Weston Leader.

Our own ambitious burg will soon have a chance to rival Portland in population if the people down there are not more successful in dodging automobiles.—Weston Leader.

It begins to look as though the dove of peace will never alight in Ireland until both the Ulster and the Sinn Fein factions are reduced to such dire extremity that they would rather eat than fight.—Weston Leader.

A Portland man complains that he recovered from a big spree and found himself married. There's another warning for those who violate the prohibition laws.—Eugene Register.

Japan simply has to have somebody's back yard to play in, but she can't slide down China's cellar door. We might offer her a chance at Nevada. It needs people.—Benton County Courier.

Well, Dallas escaped one thing by being off the main highway. We didn't receive a visit from Roy Gardner while he was on his way south after escaping from McNeil Island in September.—Polk County Itemizer.

Aurora is one incorporated town that we know of with city water, fire apparatus, electric lights, pavement and cement walks, and not bonded for a cent nor owes a penny. Can you equal that?—Aurora Observer.

And we might express some degree of thankfulness for being fortunate enough to live in a country where the worst of winter storms is only a warm rain that can never seriously menace life or property.—Eugene Guard.

BRIEF AND TO THE POINT

Blood is thicker than an Anglo-Japanese treaty.—Columbia Record.

Scrapping warships is Secretary Hughes' notion of a scrap.—Toledo Blade.

The better speech week has come and went.—Boston Shoe and Leather Reporter.

The taxpayer knows why they call 'em "high" explosives.—Chicago Daily Journal.

China's interest is not so much in disarmament as it is against dismemberment.—Columbia Record.

There even is the possibility war may reach a stage where you can say it with flowers.—New York Globe.

As the world grows more and more civilized, we keep right on improving padlocks.—De Kalb Chronicle.

Not until the nations stack their arms will the taxpayers be able to stack their dollars.—Columbia Record.

Diplomacy that cannot endure the light of publicity will never create the light of truth.—Columbia Record
Senator Watson of Georgia will soon be famous enough to go into vaudeville.—Boston Shoe and Leather Reporter.

Business is finding out that, if buyers will not fall for prices, prices must fall for buyers.—Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.

When the world disarms, our forts won't be a total loss. We can convert them into mail cars.—Shreveport Journal.

Considering the fix the world is in it might be well to call it a consultation instead of a conference.—Kitchner Record.

A casual review of those who attend church persuades us that the choir in Heaven will be largely soprano.—Palatka News.

Is the fact that no Mexicans have been invited to the disarmament conference any reflection on their marksmanship?—New York Globe.

After all, the best way to elevate the masses is to raise children properly.—Richmond News Leader.

Doubtless Haiti is duly horrified at the necessity of marines to guard American mail trains.—Dallas News.

Any good movement will succeed if it is put over before it has a chance to become a political issue.—Richmond News Leader.

One consolation about some of this modern hooch is that when a man drowns his sorrows in it they stay drowned.—New York American.

Lloyd George says, "The Washington Conference is like a rainbow in the sky." Does he mean it is all Hughes? —Philadelphia Evening Ledger.

An independent oil company may be defined as one that always raises its price of gasoline to the consumer the same day the Standard does.—Ohio State Journal.

The British Premier says that the disarmament conference is a rainbow of hope. And if it accomplishes anything every nation will find a pot of gold at the end of it.—Little Rock Arkansas Gazette.



Plan This Winter

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