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### Has Senator McNary Gone 'Wet'?

SENATOR McNARY'S announcement, favoring a resubmission of the prohibition amendment to the states, is both surprising and significant.

It is surprising coming at this time, when political prohibition is not an issue, and from Oregon's senior senator, who heretofore has always been classified as a "dry."

It is significant because it demonstrates that, in Senator McNary's opinion, the tide against prohibition has turned, and it is no longer political suicide for a representative of a dry state like Oregon to favor a change.

It is also interesting that the same day Senator McNary's statement was published, that portion of the Wickersham report should have been handed down showing the staggering cost of crime in this country, and the important part in that cost caused by the 18th amendment.

IT WILL now be interesting to see how Senator McNary's experiment works out. Heretofore the prohibition issue has, psychologically and politically, been in the north, very much like the colored issue in the south; insoluble legally and yet the most vital force in every local or national campaign.

Just as one drop of colored blood in the south has raised the colored issue, and forced the individual so classified into the negro camp; so one drop of liquor, or one word of anti-prohibition talk, has in the north forced the individual into the camp of the iniquitous wets.

Now will Senator McNary's pronouncement bring down on his head the opposition of the W. C. T. U. and other radical dries? And if it does, will that fact militate against his chance for re-election, if he decides to run again?

WELL, one man's guess is probably as good as another's. But our own idea is that before Senator McNary's present term expires, public sentiment will be even stronger in favor of some change in our present method of handling the liquor problem, than it is today, and that his liberal attitude will later prove an asset rather than a liability.

There are radical dries and radical wets but, as we see it, the rank and file throughout this state, and throughout the country, ARE NEITHER. Nothing could be stronger than their opposition to a return of the saloon; on the other hand, they refuse to accept the rabid prohibition, that the present situation, with its alliance between organized crime, and the bootleggers' trust, is one which MUST BE ENDURED, AND CAN'T BE CURD OR EVEN AMELIORATED.

THEY believe a better solution, not only economically but morally, can be and MUST be devised. And they are determined in every way possible to bring this about.

In their opinion the best way to bring this about, is by re-submitting the 18th amendment to the states again, throwing it back into the melting pot, and through congress finding not the perfect way out, BUT A BETTER WAY OUT.

IT IS this sentiment that Senator McNary represents, not as a pro-wet or an anti-dry; but as a representative of the citizens of this state, who believe that taking the middle of the road is such a complex problem, is better for them and better for the country, than going to extremes on either side.

### A Word to the UNwise

IT IS unfortunate but nevertheless true that when we all have LEAST we must give MOST.

We refer to the community chest which will be up for consideration now in a few months.

Medford, in common with all other cities in the country, will have more people to feed and clothe and save from suffering this winter than ever before.

Those who have given in the past must give more this year, simply because the need is going to be greater,—we no longer face a condition, but a crisis.

IF INSTEAD of a world-wide depression we had had a San Francisco earthquake, or a Galveston tidal wave, or a Mississippi flood,—not somewhere else but HERE—the need of extraordinary action would be apparent to all.

But there is nothing dramatic or soul stirring about a depression. Nevertheless the emergency is as great, and the need as acute, as if the situation had been caused by a cataclysm of Nature; instead of by the conflict and confusion of economic forces.

BUT the particular element we are interested in at the present time are those who have been well ABLE TO GIVE TO LOCAL CHARITY IN THE PAST BUT HAVE NEVER DONE SO. They have been willing to benefit by the community chest but have never been willing to contribute to it. They pride themselves on being good business men,—thrifty—but they really are tightwads and dried poor citizens.

This is an appeal to them,—made early because it is probably going to take a lot of argument to convince them.

The problem will be to convince them that in not doing their share at such a time, they are neither good business men nor thrifty.

FOR, we repeat, this is a crisis. As before stated in this column, this is not going to be a good country for ANYONE to live in, unless it is a good country for EVERYONE to live in. The good business man realizes this, and will give all he can afford to give to aid his fellow citizens, NOT because he is so eager to get rid of his hard earned cash; BUT BECAUSE he realizes that unless our form of government demonstrates this winter that it IS equal to meeting this emergency, there is grave danger it won't survive.

AND if it fails to survive, then being a good business man will avail nothing—in fact, it will prove a serious handicap rather than an advantage.

So we urge our shrewdly thrifty friends, to think it over—take stock a bit—before they decide that failing to do their share in carrying the load in the future as in the past, is a mark of good business judgment rather than a mark of about the POOREST business judgment CONCEIVABLE!

Dr. Picard, famous balloonist, says that from a height of ten miles the earth sees like a huge dish. We had no idea the depression was so noticeable.—Boston Herald.

Newport—New street lighting system installed here.

### FLIGHT O' TIME

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

From the Files of The Mail Tribune

Monday  
Both railroads and their workers prepare for general strike.

Watermelon growers with a surplus, welcome raids on their patches, but object to boys destroying vines and tearing down fences "out of pure cussedness."

Wheat straw cigarette papers advance a nickel, "owing to conditions abroad, due to the war."

Charlie Chaplin in "Police" at the Page.

The Commercial Club, at special meet to discuss coming of a sawmill to city.

Public schools of city to open September 18, owing to inability of the contractor to complete repairs to the Washington school.

Tuesday  
Citizens rush to fill their gasoline tanks for fear rail strike will cause a shortage.

"Vogue" prints an extensive article in its August issue, lauding Thomas Swann of this city, as "a stage engineer."

Owing to conditions abroad, the price of typewriter ribbons advance 25 cents.

Congress strives to mediate threatened railroad strike, Adamson bill favored.

Rain on the Somme holds up advance, and Bulgars flee Russian borders.

Street car blows a fuse, and catches fire in front of Nash Hotel, causing great excitement until chemical wagon arrives.

Wednesday  
No gasoline is being received in valley as railroad has declared an embargo on gasoline.

Mail Tribune editorial wonders, "what will be the next step to undergo a boost in price because of conditions abroad, due to the war?"

\$10,000 subscribed for establishment of a sawmill here.

Local Republicans rolled by prediction of Mose Barkdull, Democrat county chairman, that "Woodrow Wilson will carry Oregon in November."

It is the contention of Mr. Barkdull, that "more women are being kept out of war, than a Philadelphia lawyer can count."

Condemned murderer in Polson prison, spends last night, playing phonograph records: "If I Had a Thousand Lives to Live."

Thursday  
Free beef barbecue to open Jackson county fair next month.

"Dainty Dorothy" Gish in "Susan Rocks the Boat," at the Page.

Hunters shy at deer hunting, because timber is dry as powder, and deer can hear man coming three miles.

"Sweet Caporal" cigarette stage advertising "come-back" campaign.

Oregon cities launch "Pay-Up Weeks."

The Adamson bill, averting railroad strike, passes senate.

Friday  
Elmer Foss and Treve Lumsden leave for deer hunt in eastern Oregon.

A. S. Rosenbaum, for eight years local Espionage agent, is promoted to claim agent position.

Evangelists urged to make special effort to keep orchards free from blight.

"Fate's Boomerang" movie attraction at the Star.

Horse race for side-bet of \$300, scheduled for Sunday afternoon.

Weather bureau predicts much needed showers, all next week.

Plans laid for organization Boys' band here.

Saturday  
Mrs. George E. Roberts and two daughters return from a visit with relatives in the east.

Mrs. John Wilkinson has returned from a visit at Woodburn and Portland, Ore.

The Medford Choral society resumes fall rehearsals.

Mrs. E. D. Elwood is visiting her sister in Portland.

### Superstitions

Men Abhor Them

(Kansas City Star.)

Once more a writer rises to tell us of Winston Churchill—as it has been told of countless other men—that he is superstitious. This unjust statement is based on the fact that he knocks on wood to ward off trouble.

That is not superstition; it is a very proper caution.

We cannot tolerate superstition. It indicates a weak and fearful mind. We always have done our best to eradicate it wherever we have seen its evidences.

We are entirely free of it. Like Mr. Churchill and others we knock on wood on proper occasions, and assert it is a sound principle.

Often when we have knocked on wood nothing has happened to us, which proves the case for the practice. Its efficacy of course is in the fact that the ritual—and that is what it is—(and we trust we do not have to defend ritualism as an elevating force in the life intellectual), simply gives the mind time for reflection.

Actually it is the mind that wards off trouble, when it has a chance to work. It is to keep the mind from running away, so to speak, every time it is confronted by an emergency, and to give it a breathing space to collect its forces, to oppose the trouble, that we knock on wood.

It might serve the same purpose if we stopped to count ten, or turned around in our tracks three times or took off our hat and put it on backwards. But these practices lack the force of tradition, and are perhaps too conspicuous besides.

Seen doing such things we might be thought superstitious. But knocking on wood can be done easily and casually and without attracting undue attention.

The fingers can wander carelessly to the vest pocket and lightly tap a lead pencil. They can drum unremarked on your desk. They can (although we do not recommend it) unobtrusively with a toothpick.

The few moments required for the ritual accomplish the miracle. The startled mind, given this slight elbow room, extends itself to meet the problem; it recovers its equilibrium and settles back to its job. We trust nobody, after this perfectly rational explanation of the practice, will hereafter regard it as a superstitious one.

But we have nothing but pity for the man who won't walk under a ladder and shies at a black cat crossing his path. He is a victim of superstition, poor thing.

### Health vs. Tax Cuts

Moles and Children

(Salem Capital Journal)

At a conference of the Marion county tax reduction committee, a county committee Friday, it was strongly intimated that health work in Marion county would be one of the targets for the tax reducers when budgets are made up for the coming year.

That this organization would be singled out as a target to shoot at no doubt could be expected as it has been more or less fashionable in so-called tax reducing circles to refer to the health unit as a tax eating monster, devouring the income of the taxpayer.

Yet, human health is our greatest asset and probably the least conserved by public agencies—at least this was true up to a few years ago.

Careful expenditure of public funds is a necessity at times when private purse strings have been involuntarily drawn by depressed business conditions. But there are many county agencies which could feel the tax reducer's hand with less harm to the general public good than the health unit. Unquestionably the health movement has resulted in great and wide benefits to the people of Marion county. Especially is this true among the children. Health habits are being taught to growing boys and girls and these habits will cling through life to the vast benefit of our future citizenry.

If there are frills and edges to the expenditures of the health unit which may be lopped off well and good—lop them off. But care should be exercised not to damage or cripple this extremely important function of county government.

It may be that the death of a mole is more important than the life of a child. It may be that an extra quarter of a mile of road is more essential than the sanitary conditions which surround our people.

Possibly an advertising budget to finance farmers to come here when farmers here now cannot pay their taxes is of supreme moment as compared to prevention of a typhoid epidemic.

Perhaps an added appropriation for a law library may offset the menace of a smallpox scourge. No doubt it is more vital that a seal be placed on a scale at county expense than a mouth breathing child with adenoids be saved from possible idiosyncrasy because of its infection.

Yet, it might be well to weigh carefully the value of these few property rights against the enjoyment of health and all of the happiness which follows in its wake.

But in the tax reduction program, vital as it may be, the nonessentials should be scrutinized carefully and eliminated. The essentials should be maintained.

### Budd Plan Approved

Links Rail and Farm

(St. Cloud, Minn., Times)

Northwest business leaders meeting in Minneapolis on Monday, upon motion of Ralph Budd, president of the Great Northern railway, took steps towards the building of a great Northwest organization for the benefit of agriculture and industry.

Territory to be covered will include Minnesota, North and South Dakota and Montana. More than 60 business leaders of the four states attended the meeting and it is expected that a permanent federation representing banking, railroad, business and farming interests, will grow out of the conference.

To assist the district group arrangements are also being made for the formation of a Twin Cities committee of 100. This Twin Cities group will operate through an executive committee and will represent the business and financial interests of St. Paul and Minneapolis and will work for the development of the northwest and especially for the assistance of agriculture in the spring wheat district.

Prominent business men at the meeting pointed out that there was no organization for united co-operative effort throughout the northwest. It is the plan of this proposed organization to co-ordinate the work of the local and state groups already in the field.

One purpose of the organization is to assist the farmer in 10 North Dakota counties which have suffered greatly from the drought this season. There are also isolated areas in other portions of the northwest where the grasshopper plague has devastated crops. And then there are some small areas which have also been affected, catching more trout this year than last.

On a far future day and with great growth in home population and tourist visitation, we may face a condition of permanently depleted trout streams in Oregon but that condition is not imminent. And the effort to save off any such unhappy condition as that through protection and thru artificial planting is worth the making and worth paying for.—(Oregonian.)

### And Now It's Camping By Airplane



Modern light weight camping equipment and modern high speed air transportation are proving a Southern California sportsmen, according to the Western Auto Supply Company, who recently flew camping equipment for a party from Warner Bros. First National studios. Lt. Colonel Roscoe Turner of the "Glimore Lion" carried the party in his plane to Bishop at the base of the High Sierras. This is shown inspecting the camping equipment before going back into the mountains.

It is not without logic to support it—that fish and game protection are supported by special fees paid in the form of licenses by hunters and anglers and by no others, and that hunters and anglers are therefore entitled to have the revenues so obtained expended wholly in their interest and under an administration that would in effect transfer a considerable part of that sum to general public purposes would be altogether likely to face formidable opposition.

Representations such as those made before the game commission that the fish are vanishing from our streams despite artificial propagation and planting may be taken for the present, we think, cum grano salis. It all depends upon where you go fishing. Some streams along highways and readily accessible and which have not recently been replanted are pretty thoroughly fished out. That is particularly true regarding streams near Portland, which have received comparatively scanty attention in recent replanting operations and which are a good deal past due to receive that attention. But the evidence is ample that anglers on the McKenzie, the Deschutes and numerous other streams have been catching more trout this year than last.

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Fathers' Day was observed without distressing incidents, was some passive resistance, and a few neckties, but no scenes of violence.—The New Era.

A professor of English says we shall soon need a new word to describe the speech used by average American. What the American Language?—Punch.

Bookstrap economists recommend bond issues to raise money to lend to farmers to buy lumber and build much-needed improvements. Lumbermen, fighting for survival, grasp at this straw. We don't blame the lumbermen but we credit the farmers with more sense than to encourage the project. Twelve years ago they borrowed as a patriotic service, and haven't extricated themselves yet. During last twelve years they have had billions of tax-exempt money shoveled at them through governmental agencies, and those who borrowed are in far worse fix than those who got along without borrowing. The farmer's land is security for all the state and county bond issues now outstanding. If state bonds were issued to lend him money, his land would be burdened twice, once on the loan and again to pay the tax on the bonds in behalf of those farmers who were unable to repay their loans.

Running the farmer deeper and deeper into debt seems to be the pet scheme of economic rainmakers who cry out "something must be done right now," and when the farmer wakes up he finds he was it.—(Oregon Voter.)

The writer in the Oregonian defends the dote system as merely a form of

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