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A Granger's Letter

AMONG matters appearing in the Oregon press on the sales tax is the report of an open letter from C. P. Strain, Grants Pass granger, to State Grange Master Ray Gill.

Mr. Strain doesn't seem to take the idea of regimenting the minds and opinions of Oregon grangers. He demands that the Grange Bulletin be opened up to a discussion of both sides of the sales tax argument, and that grange halls likewise be used for two-sided debate on this subject. The idea seems to be that grangers have a right to think for themselves.

Having made himself clear on that point, Mr. Strain mentions certain circumstances which would indicate that the grange itself has not hesitated to espouse the principle of the sales tax when it had its own axe to grind. Here are some paragraphs along that line:

Under state leadership we initiated a sales tax on butter substitutes. We sought a tax of 10 cents a pound, which was more than the price of the article to be taxed. It was more than 67 times higher than the rates of the present sales tax law. It was to be imposed on an article used especially by the poor, who like butter, but who could not afford it.

You know that the legislature, following defeat of our oleo tax bill, enacted a tax of 4 cents a pound, which is a rate of 40 per cent to 50 per cent on oleo and 25 to 30 per cent higher than the rate of our new sales tax law. This for our benefit and in answer to our own demand.

You know that our gasoline tax is a sales tax paid by all motor car users, including the poor, who drive old gas-burning contraptions cast off by the well-to-do.

Our national grange leaders have secured for us processing taxes on such necessities used by the poor as wheat, hogs, corn and cotton. These rates are 30 per cent to 50 per cent of the market value of the products taxed. We saw how prices rose following enactment of these laws. They are all sales taxes levied upon consumers for the benefit of producers.

Incidentally, we are among those who stood with the grange on some of these matters, and otherwise espouse the cause of the farmer at every opportunity, but feel they can support a state sales tax at this time to help the schools without damaging the welfare of the agriculturist.

It Deserves Success

NOW that the free beer controversy (which was interesting despite its triviality) is over, it is in order to give some attention to the real work the Little Theatre Guild of Klamath Falls has been doing and the results of that work to be offered for public approval at the Pine Tree theatre Thursday night.

At that time and place, the Guild will present "Ten Nights in a Bar-room," the famous temperance melodrama that for over 60 years has enjoyed a distinctive place on the American stage.

Here is a drama with tradition and power that will test the histrionic abilities of the local group. It is not a job to be taken lightly, and it has not been taken lightly by the Guild players. Weeks of difficult, grueling rehearsal have been put into the performance. A serious, hard-working organization has made an effective publicity campaign, arranged for a suitable place of presentation through the cooperation of Harry Poole, obtained costumes from a San Francisco costume house, and made satisfactory property arrangements.

The cast is composed of young people well known in the community. The director is Clem Lyons, a Tulelake rancher, who has had professional experience on the stage, and has contributed much time, effort and talent to the Guild's efforts.

The Little Theatre Guild represents in Klamath Falls the community drama movement that has swept the country in recent years with a cultural effect of no small importance. We wish it success in its most pretentious effort, by which it will close its first year of activity Thursday night.

Reviving the Spark

IT is interesting that the state board of higher education has decided to make more than mere figureheads out of the presidents it recently appointed for the University of Oregon and Oregon State college.

At its Portland meeting, the board delegated wide authority to these men, with the understanding they would be responsible to the chancellor alone, and not to the board. The chancellor will answer to the board for every matter pertaining to the administration of the institutions.

This idea may work out. The people of the state, at any rate, should wish success for it, because it appears the board is committed to such a program. Failure of another scheme would leave us little short of despair.

The two-president plan is designed to give the institution a sense of individuality, which they were supposed to have relinquished when the "system" plan was put into effect a few years ago. Perhaps the latest action of the board indicates a yielding to the creed of rugged individualism, as it applies to the institutions under its control.

At any rate, regimenting the institutions into a hard and fast system did dampen a spark that is essential to aggressiveness and progress. Modifying the original plan is not likely to do any harm.

A group of students at the University of Oregon has petitioned the state board of higher education for a ruling making membership in the Associated Students optional. The board denied the request, but there is something to the students' stand. Youngsters who have to battle the economic wolf to get through college should have the right to refuse to spend their money for this and that extra-curricular purpose. Under the system in vogue in most schools, they do not have that right. Student membership fees, newspaper subscriptions, athletic tickets and so on are required of them along with their regular tuition payments. For years, students at the University of Oregon paid a \$5 term assessment that was voted on them years before by students who soon passed out of school and out of the taxing power.

**Application For Crossing Prepared**  
City Engineer E. A. Thomas at 10 a. m. Thursday will present to the county relief committee a CWA project calling for construction of an undergrade crossing on Main street.

Approval of the county relief committee is necessary before the application can be taken to Portland to determine whether it can be carried out under the civil works program.

WASHINGTON

News Behind the News

The Inside Story From The Capital  
By PAUL MALLON  
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WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—Nearby everyone here, including congressmen, is sold on the idea that there will be a far eastern war in the spring and that we may be drawn into it.

Officials dare not say such a thing openly, but they go around talking about it in such loud stage whispers that even a deaf mute could hear them.

They have the house appropriations sub-committee on the run approving funds that are needed and some that are not essential for naval upbuilding and army improvements. The big ship lobbyist, William B. Schearer, has a new hat and overcoat and goes through congressional halls grinning like a Cheshire cat. The peace societies are wringing their hands and writing open letters of protest which no one reads. They are trying to buttonhole congressmen who avoid them.

The whole current of affairs is obvious—in fact, just a little too obvious.

When war talk gets as open as it is now, the war is usually avoided.

CLEVES

If you are even a half good detective you should be able to deduce what is going on from the following significant facts:

The British recently called a spectacular conference of their fleet admirals in far eastern waters. It was the first conference of the sort held in 13 years. Ordinarily such a meeting would be attended with the utmost secrecy. This one was widely advertised ahead of time by the British government, and staged at Singapore with extra publicity trimmings.

Just prior to the time that conference was arranged, the British foreign minister, Sir John Simon, dropped down to Rome to discuss world peace with Premier Mussolini. Before and after the visit Mussolini broadcast the news that war was imminent in the far east. He pointed a finger at Japan and told her that her war preparations must cease.

Mussolini started talking that way just about the time he received a visit from the Russian foreign minister, M. Litvinoff, who was then on his way back to Russia with U. S. recognition in his pocket.

Coincidentally with M. Litvinoff's departure from this country, such prominent U. S. officials as ambassador to Russia Bullitt and Chief Hornbeck of the state department far eastern division dropped a few remarks about Japan. They were diplomatically ambiguous, but clearly designed to show our dissatisfaction.

NOTES

An old-time newsman recently returned from the far east with the observation that Japan's war preparations were more obvious than those in Europe before the outbreak in 1914.

DEDUCTIONS

The relationship between those events has not been lost on Japan. That is what her statesmen are talking about when they gripe in the press that the world is "closing in" on little Nippon. Of course the Japanese statesmen would read into the situation the idea that the world is going to conquer them.

The fact seems to be that the world is trying in a new way to stop a war. It is trying to tell Japan that she will gain nothing but trouble if she tries to attack Russia in the spring. It is saying: "Don't start a fight or we may all get in and then where will you be?"

That may not be a very idealistic way of promoting world peace, but it is the only way which seems to have a chance of being effective now.

ARMS

Another hidden factor in the situation is just as important as the war angle. That is naval armaments.

Japan has told us that she will not continue her 3-to-5 treaty ratio with us next year. She has not sent any notes or called us on the telephone, but there are more ways of talking across

SIDE GLANCES—by George Clark



"Well, we can't pay anything on Junior's alimony until Irene gets a check from her ex-husband."

Disorderly Conduct Charges Dismissed

Charges of disorderly conduct filed by Elwood W. Roberts and Doug Puckett against each other in connection with an alleged fight in a local hotel lobby recently, have been dismissed by Police Judge Richmond upon petition of the complainants.

The Puckett case was heard and decision reserved by the court until after the Roberts case which was set for trial Monday. Petitions for dismissal were granted by the judge on Monday prior to the time set for trial.

Editorials on News

(Continued from Page One)

and turning them loose in the fields.

Apparently they did their stuff. Anyway, the aphid scourge passed.

The aphid, incidentally, is made use of by the ant in an exceedingly smart way.

The aphid exudes a sort of sticky juice from its body, this juice coming from the sap of plants. Ants like this juice. So they handle the aphid much as we human beings handle cows, taking the juice from them much as we take milk from the cow.

ONE more weather touch—this one concerning the Green Springs highway and the anti-Green Springs complex that seems to exist on the other side of the mountains.

A Portland man had to come to Klamath Falls last week, and wanted to drive. Asking in the Willamette valley about the condition of the Green Springs highway, he was told that it was dangerous and well-nigh impassable—that he would be taking a long chance in attempting it.

Can you beat that? There isn't a flake of snow on the Green Springs highway, and it is really far safer than the wet Pacific highway up in the Willamette valley.

A newsmen stopped a senator after the debate, saying: "I did not know you were a money expert, senator." The senator looked at him quizzically, not knowing how to take the remark, finally the senator expanded his chest and said: "I thought when you first said that you were trying to kid me."

About one-fourth of the comedians at the University of Washington cannot wink, according to eye tests made there.

Mr. and Mrs. U. Dillard and John Dillard were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Faus Tuesday evening at their home in Klamath Falls.

Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Anderson were Klamath Falls visitors on Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Millard were shopping in Klamath Falls Friday.

Mrs. W. H. Wynant was shopping in Klamath Falls Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Laird of Myrtle Point visited in Merrill last week.

Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Jinnette entertained at dinner Sunday. Their guests were Mr. and Mrs. I. Wolfe and Miss Gertrude Wolfe.

Dr. Newsom and Miss Lydia Fricke from the county health office visited the Merrill schools Friday morning.

Mrs. Annie Anderson, who has been visiting relatives in Coos county for several months, returned to her home in Merrill last week.

Mrs. C. Bowman sprained her ankle when she made a misstep. While it is very painful, it is thought it will soon be all right.

Need for More Postal Regulations



GRANGE PRESENTS 'COUNTRY STORE'

MERRILL, Ore.—The Merrill grange presented the play, "The Country Store." Mrs. John W. Taylor, lecturer for Merrill grange, had charge of the play, and Miss Ellen McVeigh was coach. The play was given before a fair-sized audience, and was considered one of the best plays ever given here.

The cast included:

Al Martin, Roy Deaseley; Marie Martin, Dorothy Haskins; Sam Johnson, Donald Fraser; Tom Briggs, Leon Andrieu; Buck Frind, P. D. Lewis; Rubie Hutchins, W. Robinson; Harold Hawley, Lawrence Fraser; Robert Corey, J. W. Taylor; Bess, Geraldine; Fotheringham; Anna, Pearl Deaseley; Mrs. Blake, Leona Kidwell; Mrs. Smith, Fannette Offield; Mrs. Hawkins, Mrs. Iconbice; Miss Simmons, Mrs. Given; Hunter, Carroll Robinson; Little Girl, Lois Lewis; Gus, J. S. Johnson; Ned, John D. Moore; Jerry, Wilbur Haskins; St. Newcomb; H. P. Blanton; Ralph Miller, Myron Haskins; Roy, John Wesley Asbury; Leland Pope, Otto Padgett; Glendon Colwell; Squire Holden, Lester Moore; Jim (colored boy), Mrs. H. P. Blanton; and Mandy Spriggs, Marjorie Bowman.

Candy was sold by the home economics committee.

MERRILL

MERRILL, Ore.—Mrs. Rita Scoggins was called to Klamath Falls Saturday by the serious illness of her brother, C. H. Merrill.

Mr. and Mrs. John Glacomi left Saturday for Portland, where they will make a short visit. Their son Anthony is a patient at the Shriners' hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Bailey spent the week end with Mr. Bailey's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Bailey.

Word has been received in Merrill of the serious illness of Mrs. Leona Ady in Portland. Mrs. Ady was a former resident of Merrill, and for many years was postmistress of Merrill.

Miss Maxine Harper of Lakeview spent the week end in Merrill, the guest of Mr. and Mrs. M. Hartlerode.

Miss Wilma Offield left Sunday morning for Portland, where she has secured a position in St. Vincent hospital. Miss Offield graduated recently from the hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Fletcher and family spent Sunday with Mrs. Fletcher's family, Mr. and Mrs. George Offield.

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Hulse of Klamath Falls attended the card party given by the Library club Thursday evening.

Mrs. Madison Browne received a message Thursday, telling of the death of her father, George Merrill, in Thermopolis, Wyo.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Lewis had as dinner guests Sunday Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Jinnette, Karl Jinnette and Gene Ramsey.

Mrs. Annie Anderson has been ill the past week. She is at the home of her son, Mr. Anderson, and is reported improving.

Mrs. B. F. Faus has been confined to her home for several days. She is able to be up part of the time now.

Mrs. John Dillard has been visiting relatives in Ashland.

Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Anderson were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. George Graham Sunday, January 21. Additional guests were Mrs. Annie Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Charles I. Snyder, Robert Martin Snyder, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Colwell, Midland; Robert and Dan Colwell, Midland; Robert and Donald Colwell, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Laird, Raymond, Robert and Everett Laird.

Mrs. Rita Scoggins returned Wednesday from Klamath Falls, where she spent several days with Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Merrill, and to be with her brother, Charles Merrill, who is confined to the hospital.

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Society News

B. P. W. MEMBERS GUESTS AT WINNER  
Mrs. Isabelle Brinker and Mrs. Jean Porter were hostesses at an informal dinner party Saturday evening at the Brinker home on Main street when they entertained several members of the Klamath Falls Federation of Business and Professional Women. This was one of the benefit affairs being given within the club this year to raise funds.

A Roosevelt birthday party motif was carried out by the hostesses, and part of the evening was spent in preparing a page for the club scrap-book. Covers were laid for Mrs. Anna Harve, Mrs. Myrtle Robinson, Mrs. Betty Cleveland, Mrs. Carolina Vacker, Mrs. Imogene Nye, Mrs. Dena Hakes and the hostesses.

C. A. R. TO HOLD MEET SATURDAY AFTERNOON  
General Canby society of C. A. R. will meet Saturday afternoon, February 3, at 2:30 o'clock, at the home of Mrs. Bert C. Thomas, 203 Pine street.

Don Fisher, who has recently returned from Virginia, will talk to the society on "Yorktown, Yesterday and Today."

All members of Eulalia chapter, D. A. R., and all eligible to C. A. R. are most cordially invited to attend the meeting.

Candy was sold by the home economics committee.

Miss Thelma Parrish entertained members of her Sunday school class at a party given at her home in the Audley apartments on Saturday evening. The evening was spent in playing games and singing.

Guests were: Mary Mitchell, Alice Landers, Beulah Smith, Henry Landers, Thelma Evans, Ila Millard, Ima Millard, Cecil Green, Olive Clapp, Marie Pruitt, Rosa Gray, Wilma Tompkins, Isabelle Fager, Patty O'Dell, Dale Hayden, Ruth Metcalf, Duane Monroe, Dorothy Griffith, Dorothy Dopp, Dorothy Rubin, Frances McMahon, and the hostess, Thelma Parrish.

A group of intermediate Christian Endeavors of the First Presbyterian church met at the home of Miss Gretchen Hurn on Fifth and Pine streets for an evening of entertainment Saturday. The affair was a mission party. Refreshments were served at the close of the evening.

Those who attended were Misses Donna Pife, Carolyn Collier, Ruth Heldricks, Mary Merseaux, Pat Olds, Barbara Johnson, Betty Van Emon, Virginia Gilbert and Eleanor Collier.

Herbert Applegate auxiliary, Number 14, will meet Thursday evening, February 1, at the court house club rooms at 8:00 o'clock.

FARMERS CONSIDER CHEESE FACTORY

MERRILL, Ore.—Joe Knight and Guy Bell of Coos county spent some time in Merrill, visiting the dairymen of the valley to interest them in a cheese factory. If sufficient cows can be gathered to warrant the establishment of a factory, one will be constructed here.

The Merrill Service club had many of the dairymen of the vicinity as its guests at a luncheon at Alderice's cafe Sunday when the advisability of the project was discussed. About 380 cows were pledged. At the present time dairymen are not making cream on their investments and some are not even milking, saying they can't afford to feed for milk. Some fine herds are idle and dairymen will welcome anything that will help.

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