

Comments of the Week

REDUCTION OF CITY TAXES POSSIBLE

The reduction of the taxes of city property owners should be forthcoming within a short time if a favorable vote is given the proposed amendment to the city charter which is released for some time by city officials due to the accumulation of money in the water department fund. With the accumulation and with money that will be taken in, in the future, funds will be sufficient to meet the expenses of administering the city's business without the need of a tax or with only a small tax. That news should be of considerable interest to the people who will cast their ballot October 24th on adoption of the amendment.

ONE REASON FOR A SHORTAGE

The government declares federal requirements must be filled before civilian needs. Figures from OPM show some of the purchases since the start of the defense program on paper products as follows:

- 2,000,000 rolls toilet tissue for each army camp.
- 50,000,000 corrugated cases to ship canned goods to England
- 80,000,000 grocery bags
- 1,000,000 pounds of water-proof paper to cover equipment sent to Iceland
- 1,000,000 envelopes for lease-lend work
- 1 carload of blueprint paper used in the construction of each battleship
- 14,000 pounds of asbestos paper for each cruiser of which 64 are now being built
- 100,000,000 pounds of paper for soldiers handbooks
- 30,000,000 albums for defense stamps
- 50,000,000 paper file holders

The most critical thing facing paper mills today is the matter of chemicals. An important chemical used in the manufacture of paper is chlorine. The curb on the use of chlorine means that writing paper, napkins and other paper items will have a yellowish appearance.

It is likely that most people will not object strongly to the unusual color of the paper if they are able to get some of it for use. The case with paper is similar to that of many other products of daily consumption.

PERHAPS A POULTRY-PRODUCING AREA

Mention was made a few weeks ago of the development of a small industry here—poultry. The start that has been made in that direction by one man is a move that, if made by a number of people, would mean a thriving industry for this community. The start is small, it is true, but it is an indication of what can be done with proper initiative. The raising of chickens as a means of livelihood is only one of several farm enterprises that could and is being undertaken on a small scale to provide income for those who are not employed as lumbermen.

COUNTY NEWS--

St. Helens

COURT WILL PONDER FUTURE OF BURNED-OVER LANDS

The question of who shall own and administer the thousands of acres of logged-over or burned-off land now held by the county is being brought to a head last week by a request from the state forester's office that the county give a deed to the state for approximately one-third of 23 sections in the Oak Ranch section, Judge Ray Tarbell said. Decision on this matter—which would probably set a long-range policy—will be made at the October 10 meeting of the court. Briefly, here is the issue at stake: A considerable portion of Columbia's marginal lands is made up of burned-over or logged-off acres, and of this portion the county owns a heavy percentage because of foreclosure. The state is seeking to take over part of these lands, plant them to young trees and then administer these forests. According to the present state law, the county would receive 75 per cent of the returns from these acres while the state would get the other 25 per cent.

COUNTY VALUE SHOWS FIRST RISE IN YEARS

For the first time in nearly a decade, Columbia county's assessed valuation, which has been steadily declining along with the vanishing forests, has shown an increase, a summary of the new assessment roll as released by County Assessor Fred Watkins disclosed last week. Total net taxable value, exclusive of utilities, is \$11,160,340 for 1941 as compared with \$10,266,435 last year, an increase of \$893,905. This increase is registered despite a reduction of acres of timber land from 26,330 valued at \$1,184,170 in 1940 to 23,193 acres valued at \$974,680.

WORK TO START ON SCAPPOOSE SECTOR ROAD—Johnson's crossing, the infamous

The Vernonia Eagle

MARVIN KAMHOLZ
Editor and Publisher

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OREGON NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

S-shaped curve two miles south of Scappoose which has claimed three lives in car crashes already this year, will be eliminated about November 1 when paving and other work will be completed on a new section of road from Scappoose south to the Multnomah county line. H. J. Montague, foreman for Roy L. Houck, the Salem contractor who holds the contract for the job, said last week that paving equipment and a crusher crew would move in next week and that work should be completed within three weeks.

PETERSON NAMED TO COUNTY SCHOOL POSITION

Otto H. H. Peterson, principal of the Scappoose grade school since 1929 and a teacher in Columbia county since 1926, has been chosen as county school superintendent to replace W. B. Schnebly, who has resigned, Judge Ray Tarbell said last week. The county court made the selection at its meeting Thursday and the appointment will hold for the entire length of Mr. Schnebly's term of office which has three years and three months yet to run.

Clatskanie

MINT CROP NEEDS MORE DRY WEATHER

A week of good weather and the Clatskanie community's harvest of mint would be about completed. Something like 3000 acres are grown on the local diked lands and prospects were for a bumper crop. The rain of late August and September, however, cut the yield about half, according to the growers who state that it takes the sun to bring the oil from the leaves. The continued rains also caused some mint to rot in the field.

RESERVES SET ASIDE

In the first six months of this year reserves set aside for federal income taxes by a group of 275 industrial companies, represented, in the aggregate, 51.6 per cent of their earnings.

A FINE GIFT FOR SOME ONE



A SUBSCRIPTION TO THIS NEWSPAPER

THE POCKETBOOK of KNOWLEDGE BY TOPPS



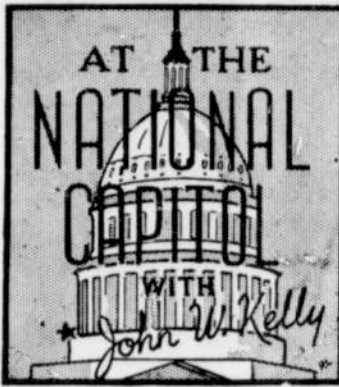
56 TONS OF AIR-CONDITIONED AIR A MINUTE WILL BE PROVIDED FOR EMPLOYEES IN A NEW AIRPLANE FACTORY IN CALIFORNIA!

GOING UP!

AMERICAN AIRPLANE PRODUCTION HAS BEEN STEPPED UP TO THE POINT WHERE 3 PLANES ARE DELIVERED TODAY FOR EVERY 1 OF A YEAR AGO

7,500 POUNDS OF COAL ARE USED ANNUALLY FOR EACH PERSON IN THE UNITED STATES

PRETZELS WERE ORIGINALLY DESIGNED BY MONKS OF THE EARLY CHRISTIAN ERA, WHO MADE THE "LITTLE CAKES" TO RESEMBLE FOLDED ARMS IN PRAYER... THEY WERE GIVEN TO CHILDREN AS REWARDS FOR LEARNING THEIR PRAYERS



Washington, D. C., October 8—

When congress debates the price control legislation the bill proposing a ceiling on many commodities and excepting farm prices and labor will undoubtedly be enacted, but with modifications. Instead of one man, Leon Henderson, being in control there may be a board. It is recognized that wages are an important item in costs of any article, from potatoes to automobiles, and the contention is made that unless wages have a ceiling the prices will soar. Instead of a ceiling on wages, however, government officers suggest that wages can be maintained at a level by voluntary agreement with unions.

Price Rise Seen

Farmers will be hurt. That is expected. In the first two years of the first world war farm products went up 12.6 per cent, according to the office of emergency management, and already they have gone up 43.1 per cent. These are wholesale prices, not what the farmer receives nor what, yet, the consumer will pay. The full force of the increase will strike the consumer within a few months. The retailer has had to pay the increase and he can not sell at the old price without going broke. Early next year prices will be sky high unless the price control legislation is passed.

Department of justice, propaganda department, is making a great fuss over the speeches which appeared in Congressional Record by isolationists and which were in envelopes bearing their free postage frank. Among others were the franked envelopes of Rep. John Coffee of Washington, Rep. Hamilton Fish of New York, Senator Gerald Nye of North Dakota. There is an intimation that postal inspectors will investigate this use of the franking privilege.

Argument Arising

To tell the truth, what Coffee, Fish, Nye and others are doing is the same thing that Senator Norris, Senator Bone, Representative Leavy, Representative Rankin, Representative Pierce have done in Washington and Oregon when their articles and franked envelopes were used in fights against Washington Water Power Co. of Spokane, the proposed PUD in Portland, Baker, Eugene—all to bring about government ownership of power. Administration was silent on these canned speeches and free mailing privileges, and it now is regarding various agencies possessing a postal frank. Assertion is made that isolationists are running up the cost of the postal service. And while this is going on the grazing service of the department of interior (now transferred to Sale Lake City) is franking out of Washington, D. C., press releases to the papers of the northwest containing

five copies of a single article which would cost a taxpayer six cents to send through the mails, and neither Secretary Ickes nor the postal department utters a peep about stuffing the mails with this dope.

Blowup Expected

A blowup can be expected over the contract signed by Jesse H. Jones, RFC administrator, with the Aluminum Company of America, which has been declared "outrageous." The contract provides that the plants can be taken over by Alcoa after the war, although they are being built with government money. The original intention was to pay Alcoa a managerial fee. The Alcoa contract and the actions of the company in selecting sites is declared responsible for the delay in building aluminum plants in Oregon and Washington. It is now four months since the government-owned plants were recommended by OPM and nothing has been done in the way of construction. There are congressmen who are becoming curious.

Estimated number of employees in August in non-agricultural establishments in Oregon and Washington amounted to 783,000. Of this number 499,000 were employed in Washington and 284,000 in Oregon. From July to August 9,000 new workers were on the job in Washington and 8,000 were added to Oregon payrolls. Compared with August, 1940, the number employed in Washington increased 65,000 and in Oregon 34,000. As the defense program speeds up these states will have an all-time high of employment in 1942. The figures give an idea of the number of workers to come under the social security payroll taxes.

Rumors Circulate

Rumors have been circulating for months that the federal government is contemplating the establishing of a pulp mill somewhere in Oregon or Washington to manufacture an ingredient in smokeless powder, and probably placing it in the "fog belt." This report has reached the territory affected, but no amount of inquiry in the national capital has been able to uncover any supporting evidence. All the present two score pulp and paper mills in the northwest are reported to be working on a 24-hour basis, so great is the demand for their material.

Defense Bond Quiz

Q. Has the Government set a quota to be raised through the sales of Defense Savings Bonds?
A. No; there is no quota and no time limit. The Defense Savings Program is to be a continuing effort, and both Defense Bonds and Stamps should be purchased steadily and regularly.

Q. Why were the Nation's retail stores asked to sell Defense Savings Stamps?
A. American retailers were not asked—they volunteered through their national organizations to undertake the sale of Defense Savings Stamps on a vast scale.

Note.—To buy Defense Bonds and Stamps, go to the nearest post office, bank, or savings and loan association; or write to the Treasurer of the United States, Washington, D. C. Also Stamps now are on sale at most retail stores.

Washington Snapshots

by JAMES PRESTON

The greatest tax bill in history is law and this is all-American glory week for the U. S. Taxpayer. Income taxes for most people will be tripled or quadrupled this year. Two and a quarter million persons will be paying income taxes for the first time in their lives. Buy an electric light bulb, you pay a five per cent tax. Go to the movies, and it's ten per cent. Play bridge and it's 13 cents on a pack of cards, or play pool and it's part of the annual \$10 tax on pool tables. You can breathe without taxes hitting you directly or indirectly, but that's about all. Eat your breakfast, drive your car to work, make a telephone call, there's no escaping the new taxes. And then once you've digested this tax bill, and decided that security and national defense are worth paying for, there's still something else to take: most experts say this is a mere nothing as compared to the taxes to come next year and the year after that.

Believe it or not, there's a mild sort of silver lining even to this gloom. It goes by the name of Title VI, Section 601 of the new tax bill. Credit for this strange-named silver lining goes to Senator Harry F. Byrd of Virginia who pushed through an amendment, to the record-smashing bill that calls for appointment of the joint committee to recommend cuts in non-defense spending.

This committee to investigate "non-essential Federal expenditures" will consist of three members each from the House Ways and Means and Appropriations Committees, three each from the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committees, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Director of the Bureau of the Budget. The Committee is authorized to conduct an investigation and recommend as soon as possible eliminations or reductions of non-essential government spending.

High hopes are held for this committee. It marks the first time in some twenty-two years that Congress has approved something like Congressional budgetary control. And many believe it may save us as much

as a billion dollars a year—which even in these days of tossing billions around can come in pretty handy.

Right up near the top of the current Washington worries is the growing dagger that thousands of manufacturers will not survive these days of stringent defense material rationing, and that hundreds of thousands of workers will be thrown out of work.

It has been estimated that some 75 per cent of more than 100,000 plants making non-defense goods could be kept going by small allotments of materials, which if not made available would mean—especially in the cases of the small manufacturer—death to many of the plants and local ghost towns or depression areas. Under the present priorities set-up non-defense industries unequipped to do defense work are out in the cold, no matter how little they need of aluminum, rubber, or some other strategic material. So the "talking-of-revising" stage has been reached on the priorities setup, with a view to allocating small amounts of materials to plants where that is necessary to keep firms alive, towns from drying up, and labor employed.

To assist the government in saving as many jobs and as many firms as possible, the National Association of Manufacturers, through member state and local associations affiliated with the National Industrial Council, has launched a survey of "Priorities Unemployment."

Industries all over the country will be asked: "Do you anticipate that within the next 90 days you will be forced to decrease production, either because of priorities and the raw material allocation system, or the inability to get defense contracts or sub-contracts?" If the manufacturer answers in the affirmative, he is asked to tell how many workers have been laid off, the reduction in wages as the result, and what success he has had in his attempt to gain defense work. Such detailed information will be invaluable to the Washington authorities in directing materials flow, in trying to avert shutdowns, and in transferring workers where dislocations are an inevitable concomitant of defense production.

Lodges

Business-Professional Directory

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Vernonia Lodge No. 246 I.O.O.F.
Meets Every Tuesday 8 P. M.
Alton Roberson, N. G.
Paul Gordon, Secretary 4-41

Vernonia F. O. E.
(Fraternal Order of Eagles)
I. O. O. F. Hall
Vernonia
2nd and 4th
Friday Nights 8 o'clock
Arthur Kirk, W. P.
Willis Johnson, W. Sec'y. 7-41

Knights of Pythias
Harding Lodge No. 116
Vernonia, Oregon
Meetings—I. O. O. F. Hall, Second and Fourth Mondays Each Month.
Pythian Sisters
Vernonia Temple No. 61
Vernonia, Oregon
Meetings—I. O. O. F. Hall Second and Fourth Wednesdays Each Month 2-41

Order of Eastern Star
Nehalem Chapter 153, O. E. S.
Regular Communication first and third Wednesdays of each month, at Masonic Temple. All visiting sisters and brothers welcome.
Allie Dickson, Worthy Matron
Mona Gordon, Secretary 1-42

A. F. & A. M.
Vernonia Lodge No. 184
A. F. & A. M. meets at Masonic Temple, Standard Communication First Thursday of each month. Special called meetings on all other Thursday nights, 7:30 p. m. Visitors most cordially welcome.
Special meetings Friday nights, C. L. Brock, W. M.
Glenn F. Hawkins, Sec. 1-42

VERNONIA POST 119 AMERICAN LEGION
Meets First Wed. and Third Mon. of Each Month.
AUXILIARY
First and Third Mondays 1-41