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NATURE REJOICES IN PROMISE OF EASTER

"It is the time when lilies blow, and clouds are highest up in the air"—poetically speaking. The lilies, it is true may be still shivering indoors in their delicate white surplises, and the clouds, perhaps, a little uncertain about climbing the empyrean on an early Easter eve, but when the day dawns, they are never far away. Outside the tulips, the narcissi and the hyacinths are budding in their beds, and the fragrant bush honeysuckle, which blooms before it leaves, eager for the sun, is scenting the air. In other words, the heralds of spring and of Easter day are abroad. Nature is awakening from its long sleep, heralding the miracle of the glory of renewed life.

Mentally, spiritually, physically, humanity is respond-

ing to Nature's call and the inspiration of the day. New rainment greets us everywhere. Eyes are brighter. The drab colors of winter are gone with the bare trees and the brown grass, and the colors of early spring come in their place to brighten the shop windows and the outward vesture of men and women and the young buds of humanity. The expectant crowds wend their ways to the churches and inside their portals flowers and music and song blend in fugues of joyous exaltation. Pippa is passing again to proclaim, "All's right with the world!"

That is the spirit of Easter—the day of resurrections, awakenings, renewed hopes, revived faiths. On New Year's day the year's gates are opened and we look ahead; on Easter day, spring's New Year, the promise is at hand, and everything conspires to make us feel that new life is beginning.

FARM BOARD SALARIES

Will farmers agree with the leaders of the federal farm board who say that reduction in the salaries of paid executives will wreck the cooperative movement? We don't think so and we are with Senator Borah, father of the farm board salary reduction bill. The sooner congress deflates these salaries the better agricultural regions will be pleased.

Borah cites a few of the pay checks that reach the farm board executives every month: C. E. Huff, president Farmers National Grain corporation \$1250 per month; W. I. Beam, vice-president and treasurer \$2500; Geo. S. Milnor, general manager, \$4166; J. M. Milton, vice-president and assistant general manager, \$2708; Wm. Engel, vice-president \$2291; W. B. Joyce, district manager at Minneapolis, \$1666; H. W. Collins, in charge of the Portland office, \$2083.

Borah asks that congress cut farm board salaries and limit the pay of officials of borrowing organizations to \$15,000 a year. That sounds like plenty—considering everything.

OVERPRODUCTION IS NOT INCREASED BY FEDERAL RECLAMATION

The assertion is often made that the crops grown upon Federal irrigation projects add to the surplus of agricultural products and thus aggravate the problem of overproduction, to which the present low ebb in the prices of such products is largely attributed in some quarters. Such statements have the ring of plausibility until the facts are known and analyzed, according to P. W. Dent, in New Reclamation Era.

By some economists the view is held that lack of purchasing power on the part of the consumer, coupled with inadequate transportation and distribution of such products, exert far more influence on the present unhappy situation than alleged surplus. Certain it is that there are now no fewer mouths to feed or bodies to clothe than hitherto when production was equal to that of present and when no cry of overproduction or surplus was heard and when prices were much higher. It is likely that a restoration of the purchasing power of the mass of consumers will so stimulate consumption that the surplus will quickly be dissipated.

It is submitted that crops grown upon Federal irrigation projects have no appreciable effect on the regulation of prices generally for the following reasons:

First. The total cropped area on Federal reclamation projects constitute about four-tenths of 1 per cent of the total area in cultivation in the United States.

Second. The crops so produced are of particular or specialized kinds, of which for the most part no surplus exists, or they are seasonal in character, and are not competitive with those crops grown elsewhere. A large portion of the areas of these projects is given over to the production of alfalfa and other forage crops consumed locally. These crops comprise 31 per cent of the cropped area of the Federal projects and constitute 18 per cent of the total crop value, but they amount to only somewhat less than 4 per cent of the total national production.

Five and one-tenth per cent of the project areas are planted to sugar beets. The Western States produce the greater part of the total tonnage of this crop. Large quantities of sugar are imported annually. Hence it can not be said that there is an overproduction of sugar beets in the United States.

Wheat is the crop of which an overproduction is perhaps more accentuated than any other. Of this commodity Federal projects produced in 1929 only 1 per cent of the total. The United States is a wheat-exporting country, and normally it must be assumed that the price of this product is fixed by the world supply and demand.

The production of barley and oats shows a slight increase on the projects, partly in substitution for wheat. These crops, which constitute less than 1 per cent of the total production, are fed largely to livestock on the farm and do not come into competition with production in the humid sections.

Cotton is produced only on those projects situate in the Southwest.

Vegetables produced on the southwestern projects, such as winter lettuce, cabbage, cantaloupes, strawberries and other small fruits, reach the early markets and furnish a very desirable variety of food at a price within the reach of all. They are in general not competitive in character, but they do fulfill a real demand which could not be supplied from other sources at prices the average consumer can afford to pay.

COMMENTS BY CLARK WOOD

The obvious solution is to balance the federal budget with new taxes that nobody but the other fellow has to pay.

Judge, the humorous weekly, appears to have been taken seriously by its creditors. At all events, they've taken it.

Unlike his product, the famous Swedish match magnate went suddenly out when brought to the scratch.

Guards will probably be kept away from the golf course a western prison plans for its inmates. Otherwise the players would be too intent on making a hole in one.

Voice of the Press

MEIER IS ACCLAIMED TAX SAVIOR

If the Meier machine doesn't nominate and elect its ticket—Clark Mott and all—it will be because it doesn't bother to try. For about all that will be necessary will be to ask the taxpayer how much his taxes are this year compared with last year. Outside of Multnomah, in nearly every county, the tax bill is off \$10, \$20, \$30, \$50. In some cases \$100. For larger taxpayers, much more.

These tax bills are just being sent out. They will all be in hand by May 5, the tax paying date, in the height of the primaries campaign. And if the Meier organization campaign is on in full force, the governor will be acclaimed as the hero who actually cut taxes.

For thirty years the Oregon taxpayer has been promised a cut in his taxes. Every politician has dinned it into his ears as an election promise. And each year the tax bill notched up a few dollars higher, or so it seemed. If there was a reduction it was so slight as to command little attention.

And then Governor Meier was elected, the big business man who said he would cut taxes. He was elected by the radicals and the discontented joining with all who were opposed to the old republican organization as powerless. Elected, the governor proclaimed that he was reducing state expenses, laid the ax at higher education, made spectacular changes in the interest of economy. Then he proclaimed that the counties and localities must do as he was doing, appointed his local committees and gave them the sanction of his leadership. Publicity came from him as to what he was directing and how his commands were being obeyed.

Now the tax bills show tax reductions, and if Governor Meier isn't acclaimed as the tax savior, the one man who did it, the promiser who kept his promise, we miss our guess.

Information might show that many other causes have operated, that the local budget committees, officials and tax organizations have been on the job for years, that the reduction in state taxes was not a reduction but a shift from one tax source to another, and all that and all that. But what good is in-

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