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SAYING MERRY CHRISTMAS

Just how to spread Christmas cheer in Nyssa has been the subject of much discussion at fraternal, club and city meetings during the week. Will we have a community tree? Will we prepare baskets for the needy families? Will we cooperate with the churches who are already at work on Christmas programs?

Plans have not been entirely completed but with the ap-

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pointment of committees from the various organizations, a good start has been made and Santa is sure to include Nyssa on his annual Christmas trip from the North Pole. There will be something for everyone to attend and a treat for every child.

The city has decided to say merry Christmas with lighted trees at the intersections. Somehow the glow from a lighted tree kindles the Christmas spirit and makes everything seem brighter.

A SALES TAX?

Governor Meier declares Oregon must have additional revenue and that to raise it by returning to the state property tax would place a still heavier burden upon real estate. He proposes as an alternative a one or two per cent sales tax and has called the legislature to a special session the first week in January to enact tax legislation.

Had the people of the state voted to adopt the state income tax bill, which almost received sufficient votes to pass, the state deficit would have been taken care of, the governor has declared.

Is it necessary to enact a sales tax? Walter M. Pierce told the convention of Oregon Wool Growers no. He suggested the abolishment of the expensive office of state budget director created by Governor Meier, the reduction of high state salaries, an income tax and if absolutely necessary a tax on luxuries.

A sales tax will not be popular with the people. They feel they are taxed to death, they want no more taxes and no more increases in the cost of government.

There is no doubt but that a sales tax would lower purchasing power and hurt all retail business. People do not have a tendency to buy more if the cost is increased. For example, an increased postage rate did not produce more revenue but instead cut down the volume of postal business to such an extent the government now plans to return to the former two-cent rate on first class letters. People would buy in other states—they would never overlook an opportunity to escape the sales tax.

If an emergency exists, the legislature should look to an income tax to produce the deficit.

SPENDING WISELY

Congress is now in session. There will be a hundred and one suggestions for farm relief, unemployment relief, etc. Most of the suggestions will be at the expense of the taxpayer who, in turn, needs relief unless the sources of taxation are to be dried up.

Suppose that instead of new schemes to soak the taxpayer, Congress would urge that five million individuals well able to do so—one twenty-fifth of the population of the United States—should spend in the next thirty days, an average of \$200 each for needed improvements to their homes or places of business. This would put one billion dollars (\$1,000,000,000) into immediate circulation, would create new taxable income and property, and start an endless chain of buying and production.

The public should recognize that relief for itself can come only from itself. Congress can give no relief except as it takes from one person and gives to another. Instead of having our money taken from us and getting only a tax received and at the same time start business, which, in turn, will return our expenditure through increasing the business of each of us instead of killing it by exorbitant taxation.

EDITORIAL TABLOIDS BY CLARK WOOD

Much of the debt complication results from the fact that it wasn't a war Germany intended to pay for.

Europe's apparent expectation that American taxpayers will continue to foot the bills for her armaments has, at all events, set them to kicking.

On the theory one must have "it" to make the movies, we hope a lot of politicians won't think they qualified by "getting theirs" in the late election.

A balanced budget of the day is principally due to the paring in preparing.

Congressman Summers says that booze isn't the prime issue. Neither, for that matter, is it prime booze.

Uncle Sam finds loaning is not the way to gain but to lose friends.

This government owes nearly twenty-one billions and will have to borrow five billion more. Evidently Uncle Sam himself has been relieved not wisely but too much.

At all events, China appears to be in normal condition. One of her statesmen says she's facing a crisis.

An agricultural bulletin says that few farmers keep books. Evidently they do not borrow them.

Soon we'll see whether or not "two heads are better than one."

Motor trucks are killing fewer people now, although those who get in the way are still bumped off.

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THE WEST'S EMERGENCY

It will be interesting to see what follows the recent organization of men in all the Western states to maintain reclamation as a national policy.

That reclamation is threatened, that at the present session of congress further appropriations will be opposed and that, if possible, the reclamation act of 1902 will be repealed, are well known through activities of anti-reclamation forces.

On the other hand, it is, or should be, equally well known that the campaign against reclamation has been largely sustained by misinformation and sectional appeals. An instance is the recent letter of Secretary of Agriculture Hyde to The Journal. In that letter Mr. Hyde called reclamation a "subsidy," although it is maintained by a revolving fund created by leases of Western oil and gas lands in federal ownership and by settler payments. He said that even if an acre of reclaimed land produced values of \$200 a year the effort could not be justified when the charges were \$300 an acre. The fact is that annual charges are usually \$5 or \$6 an acre. He said that, if economically feasible, private construction of reclamation projects, overlooking the fact that public lands are uniformly involved and that home-making rather than speculative profit is the value sought.

He also overlooked the fact that additions to the reclaimed area in the form of raw sagebrush land are not sought but that present appeals are made only to go on with authorized construction such as the Owyhee-Vale project in Oregon and to meet the emergencies of districts hurt by general depression.

In general, the anti-reclamation propaganda in the East also overlooks the fact that Eastern industry sells 100,000 carloads of manufacturer products, at a sale price of \$100,000,000 or so, to the people in the federal reclamation projects.

The value of reclamation to the nation as a whole, its rightful place as a national policy and the propriety of congressional support of its immediate necessities have, however, failed of proper emphasis or understanding, because the West hasn't been organized. Campaigns have been too local to represent the whole subject. The National Reclamation association, in action, ought to create a new public good will for reclamation, and certainly ought to secure not only a respectful but a resolute hearing before congress.—Oregon Journal.

THE BEST

Oh, man and woman so true,
Isn't there a lot of work to do?
Let's all be chivalrous and brave,
For whatever comes, you're not afraid.

Thou' you hail from north, south, east or west,
Be a friend when circumstances so test,
Why assure each other that you the one
Comes from the only country under the sun.

Oh, friends, give all a welcome warm
and kind,
And untold happiness you will always find,
Never bragging that you're from a superior east,
Let others talk and you say the least.

—Mrs. May Myers,
McDermitt.

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JUNTURA STEADY TOWN

Juntura is one of the most steady little business towns in all Oregon. It is a center of a livestock country, and during the summer months much tourist trade comes there. It is represented this week in Portland by J. N. Jones, one of the best bankers in the state. He is accompanied by Mrs. Jones. They report the days getting chilly in the Juntura country.—Oregonian.

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