

THE GATE CITY JOURNAL

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SALES TAX WOULD ROB PETER TO PAY PAUL

In your left-hand trousers pocket you have the sum of fifty dollars. In your right-hand pocket is another fifty. For a period of time you spend entirely from the left pocket, until the fifty dollars suffers alarming depreciation. Then you begin spending from the right pocket. Would you consider this economy and reduction of expenses? You certainly would not. It is unimportant whether the dollar comes from one pocket or another, whether your left hand or your right passes it out.

But, when tax commissions and politicians announce a program of tax reduction, it usually does precisely what has been described above.

It takes a dollar off the property tax and puts another dollar on the gas tax. It shifts burdens from an inheritance tax to a sales tax. It discovers intangibles taxes—supposed to lower some other tax, but increases the total volume of tax money taken from individuals and industry, and so it goes.

Such a tax and worse is the the now sugar-coated sales tax which stipulates that a share of the receipts will go to the counties. This is the latest move at Salem to fasten this method of increasing taxes on the state of Oregon. It is even said that monied interests back the sales tax because they are about to relieve farmers and others of vast real estate holdings and they want real estate and other property relieved from taxation before they acquire it by foreclosure. In any event, the state property tax will cost the small owner of property far less than the sales tax.

The average tax reduction program is a farce and misrepresentation. It robs Peter to pay Paul.

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FARM MORTGAGES

That the farm mortgage situation is as serious in other states as it is in Oregon is evidenced by a recent Oregon Farmer publication which states that legislatures have passed laws which operate as a moratorium on certain farm mortgages until conditions change for the agriculturists.

A farmer of the Kolony brought the following letter to The Journal:

A and B own a piece of property. It may be business, farm or family home. We'll say that A's investment is \$2000 and he holds the deed to the property. B holds a mortgage on the property for \$1000. He decides he wants his money. Following the custom handed down, no doubt by the savages, he will foreclose unless A secures \$1000. So A goes to another money lender and from C secures \$1000 for which he again gives a mortgage.

Times go smoothly, then comes what is called a depression. C being a greedy man sees his chance. He knows A is in financial difficulties so notifies him he must have his money. He forecloses and the result is he not only retains his own investment but through the misfortune of A acquires the larger investment in which A has his life work. Is not this a criminal game?

We believe the Nyssa farmer, with others of Oregon, will find some encouragement in the plan proposed by Paul V. Maris, director of extension work in Oregon. Maris would create a voluntary farm mortgage adjustment committee for Oregon and the respective counties. It would be removed from politics with its primary function to seek favorable adjustments between borrower and lender. If a borrower would be found deserving of adjustment and additional time, the committee would so recommend and in this way prevent unjust foreclosures, if unjust foreclosures they proved to be. No doubt a more equitable division of the proceeds of a foreclosure could also be found.

HOW FARM COMMUNITIES CARRY ON

Lights gleamed in the Kolony schoolhouse in the fine farming community south of Nyssa Friday night for parents and friends were gathered in honor of 4-H achievement day. Their boys and girls were to receive awards in recognition of a season's work—useful work they had grown to love almost as much as play such a game it seemed to be.

The boys and girls marched up the aisle to receive achievement pins when their names were called by their friendly leader Russel McKennon, under whose supervision club work is carried on. They had learned to do a task thoroughly and well and found that such an effort brings achievement at the end. Their reward will be far greater than the pin which now delights their eyes for tomorrow they will be the farmers in the field, the mothers in the homes. They will be better and more useful citizens by reason of the training they have received in their own little communities. A good foundation has been built.

Lights gleamed not only through the windows of the Kolony school but in the eyes of the men and women who lead and sponsored club work. Club work is project No. 1 of the Kolony P.-T. A. Every spring leaders are found. Money is raised for the expense of sending one boy and one girl to 4-H summer school at Corvallis each year. Parents and teachers know 4-H club work is giving their boys and girls a better chance to meet the problems of tomorrow. And so, they carry on.

INTERNATIONAL INSINCERITY

When a sound business needs financial accommodation, it borrows money on proper security from another and more prosperous business. The time comes for payment, and the first business asks for an extension of time on the grounds that it is unable to spare the money from its business.

Then the creditor and debtor meet and talk the matter over—on a purely business—like basis. A mutually fair agreement is reached.

But when two nations become creditor and debtor the result is very different. Business methods are forgotten. Politics rears its head. The debt is made a plank in political platforms. It is wrangled over and settlement blocked for purely political reasons.

That is the trouble with the war debt problem. Instead of being treated as a matter of banking it has been turned into a political football. The decision of France not to pay, after her Premier had worked to save his country's credit, was an entirely political decision, having nothing to do with the merit of the debts. France, indeed, is in a far better position to pay than either Italy or England, both of which met their obligations promptly.

The war debt question should be considered by a business commission, made up of men who understand the problem in all its phases. It should be immune to political influence.

COMMENTS BY CLARK WOOD

Many a hopeful Democrat now dreams that when his ship comes in it will be a postmastership.

There would never be an inflated dollar if we personally were depended upon to give it the air.

Dorothy Dix says a wife can help her husband by "just believing in him." And a lot more by just believing him.

Professor says the human race will last 500,000,000 years. Shucks! We're too late for the start and can't stay for the finish.

Al Jolson is quite an artist, at that. He draws \$15,000 a week.

Technocracy might result, too, in perfecting the chisel-er's technic.

Voice of the Press

SIX SCHOOL BILLS

The Oregon Education Journal points to six "destructive" measures which have been proposed for enactment by the Oregon legislature. They were discussed Monday night by Mrs. Victoria Schweizer at the Legion and Auxiliary meeting.

1. A bill to repeal the two-mill tax for elementary schools.
2. A bill changing the minimum annual school term from eight to six months.
3. A bill to permit each of the 2,200 school boards in Oregon to prepare the course of study for its district.
4. A bill to repeal the minimum salary law.
5. A bill to change the time of school board elections from the third Monday in June to some time in March, with the provision that teachers may not be elected until after the new members of the school board are elected.
6. A bill to repeal the high school tuition law.

Considering these bills in the order listed, (1) The two-mill tax provides the only fund for equalizing the differences in the valuations of the various school districts. If the law is repealed many of the poorer districts could not raise the amount they receive from this fund, and would have to close their schools.

(2) Reducing the school term to six months would place the children of Oregon in the unemployed class for six months of each year. Enforced idleness and removal from discipline would increase juvenile delinquency. (3) The constitution of Oregon states that the public school system shall be uniform.

(4) The minimum annual salary for teachers is \$75 per month for eight months, or \$600 per year. In one school board convention directors stated that they would not pay more than \$40 per month, or \$320 per year, if they could secure the repeal of this law. Schools in the outlying districts would be let to the lowest bidder. (5) Years ago the annual school meeting was held in March. The date was changed to the third Monday in June in order that the results of the entire school year might be calmly surveyed, and that definite plans could be made for the coming school year. Time has proved that the budget for the coming school year can be planned more efficiently near the close of the school year and that the people will exercise better judgment in electing a director at that time. There is no good reason for changing the date back to March.

(6) A repeal of the high school tuition law would amount to class legislation. All of the children living in rural districts would have to pay high school tuition. Only the more wealthy could do this. The poor would be denied an education.—Oregon Education Journal.

IMPULSIVE PEOPLE

Did you ever see a person, Quite religiously inclined With a temper rather hasty Doing things sometime unkind?

Quick as they have done the mischief There's repentance right at hand You're inclined to say within you, "He won't join the angel band."

But be careful, slower temper, Once you lost your self control, And it stayed much longer with you Bringing danger to your soul.

Oh, I mean, the sulk stayed longer, Till your temper grew the stronger Until after while it flew Then all the neighborhood felt blue.

We must have impulsive people In this dear old world of ours, They will be of the church and steeple Push the plow and sow the flowers.

They will see sometimes much quicker, Than the slower, meeker man, What the Lord needs in his vineyard And will do it if they can.

But we need the sweet, calm spirit, And we pray for self control; When the Lord speaks then we'll hear it If our names are on the roll.

—Mrs. Sarah L. McDonald
Apple Valley.

VALE MATRON DIES

Mrs. Margaret Hart, 87, died Saturday at the home of her son George Hart, caretaker of the courthouse properties. Funeral services were held Monday from the Nelson Chapel with Rev. John E. Garver in charge. She was one of the oldest residents of the county.

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