

THE GATE CITY JOURNAL

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BEER AND BUSINESS

While the hop men of western Oregon are hoping and the breweries are brewing mild beer, the rest of us are wondering just what the change which comes into effect with the legalized sale of the 3.2 per cent drink tomorrow—April 7, will amount to.

First, will the sale of beer help business? Only a trial will determine the test. States along the Canadian and Mexican borders say they will reap much profit that has been going across the line. Uncle Sam will undoubtedly get no little revenue from the patrons of the bootleg rings in the larger cities of America. The smaller towns are counting on their share. But who will pay for this beer that is counted upon to balance the budget? If it is the working man with a family it will be costly beer as most of his money is needed for the grocer, the clothier and the limited pleasures which come the way of him and his family.

However, if most of the new beer is consumed by the well-to-do class, the class which we are generally lead to believe spends the greater percentage of income upon pleasures, the trade may prove a business asset to the country.

What effect will the new beer have upon morals? Will it result in a greater number of wild night rides? Although a comparatively few people can always be depended upon to exceed the limitations of dignity, we venture an opinion that they are indeed few in number. The careful observant, or the critic, will probably find that the few who will do so after beer is legal are the same few who have been doing so during our bone-dry days.

We can also see a test for the wets and the "moists" to some degree in the beer trial. The Boston Herald, for example, says, "If the exultant wets wish to promote their cause they will make the return of beer an orderly occasion, marked by as little display of triumph as possible."

PIERCE SPEAKS FOR AGRICULTURE

An honor came the way of Congressman Pierce from eastern Oregon last week when the new member of the committee on agriculture was called upon to make the first talk on President Roosevelt's farm aid bill.

"I have seen the happy, independent, well-to-do commercial farmer pass from the picture until more than 90 per cent today of those who produce the food and clothing today are financially bankrupt," said Mr. Pierce.

"Industry, transportation lines, banks and merchants have lived off and made their profits from the farmer. Now, when he has no profit and is rapidly eating up his

capital, there is nothing to divide; transportation lines, industry, and tradesmen are feeling the effect and the entire capitalistic civilization is crumbling about us.

"Overproduction is a cruel word when we think of the millions cold and hungry in our midst. If all could have work at a reasonable wage, the granaries would soon be emptied, the shelves in the stores would soon be bare, and the wheels of industry would soon turn with a welcome sound. In the meantime, one must not forget that the products of 40,000,000 acres of American soil formerly found their market in foreign shores. That market has failed. The foreign nations no longer buy our farm products. To give our protected industries a higher home market we have erected tariff walls so high that the foreign consumer has ceased trading with us. Trade is a mutual arrangement. If we do not buy, we can not sell.

"This bill gives the Secretary of Agriculture the right to rent from the farmer these 40,000,000 acres, or any part thereof, and remove them from production, allowing many acres to be used for forestry, some to lie fallow, and other acres to be given to people in our bread lines so they may grow their food and will not be obliged to accept it from the hand of charity.

"Assuming an average rental of \$5 an acre be paid by the Government for this land, or \$200,000,000—and adding \$50,000,000 for operation and contingencies, we have a total of but one-half the amount given to the Farm Board four years ago.

"In paragraph 1 of section 8 of this bill, powers granted the Secretary of Agriculture are so broad that he is given the right to decide whether the benefits shall come from "rental or benefit payments in connection therewith."

"Paragraph 3, section 8 is the licensing provision. It is the essence of the contract, it is "the heart of the covenant." Under its wise use I expect to see the unreasonable profits of many a middleman deceased. Why is bread cheaper in France than in the United States when the French farmer is receiving three times as much for his wheat as the American farmer? Possibly because many a processor is trying to pay interest and dividends upon an old and obsolete plant that should have been junked long ago.

"Section 9 of the bill provides a reasonable manner for raising the money to pay the rent or benefit payments.

"Why should the farmer not have cost of production with a reasonable profit? Who should pay it? Why, of course, the consumers of the profits.

"We farmers are not dreaming of war-time prices. We hope to realize approximately the same prices, in exchange value, which we enjoyed just before the war, from 1909 to 1914. In the days when we drove horses and could pay our debts.

"We plead with you who represent districts that have enjoyed the stimulating effect of a protective tariff for more than a century to vote with us so this bill may be enacted into law, so we may have the machinery of Government to assist us in securing better prices for the fruits of our labor. Under the terms of this bill no excessive salaries can be paid, a maximum of \$10,000 being fixed. Nothing in the history of the Farm Board created such bitter criticism as did the outrageous salaries paid for executive positions.

"The commodities regulated by this bill are wheat, corn, cotton, cattle, sheep, hogs, tobacco, rice, milk. I wished to add wool, others wanted potatoes included.

"We are on a new and untried ground. Success depends largely upon the cheerful acceptance and willing compliance of processor, producer and consumer. If we were so unfortunate as to have in the White House an unsympathetic Executive, or Secretary of Agriculture who knew little or cared less about our troubles, there would be grave doubts as to the wisdom of this legislation. No one can question the desire of Franklin D. Roosevelt to lift prostrate agriculture, nor the desire of Henry Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture, to help to place the American farm in a more secure and happy position."

COOPERATION—AND CIVILIZATION

The work shop for the member of a farm cooperative is in his home bailiwick. Right there, in the country community, is where America is going to be made over in the next ten years or so. The city has had its run. While cities were heading the parade, it was city men who led it. Now good roads and automobiles are giving the country community almost everything that the city has, on top of the kind of life that the city never did and never will have.

Farmers' cooperative associations will head the parade in the new movement, as chambers of commerce led in city building. The farm community that gets the most out of this new age will be the one that does the most, and it will have to be through cooperation—work, not medicine.

The farm cooperatives are, in the fuller sense of the word, civilizing agencies. They are developing a fuller, finer life for the farmer and farm family, as well as a more prosperous one. They are a social force as well as economic machine.

The farmer who joins a cooperative, works with and for it, and gives it his loyal support, is working for himself, his neighbors and the American family generally. Agriculture has many problems—the cooperative ideal touches them all.

COMMENTS BY CLARK WOOD

Mussolini, it seems, prefers that Italian women should have a weigh about them.

Senator Borah would never be happy as President. He couldn't be against his own administration.

Beer profits may not be up to expectations, but there's good dough in pretzels.

Around the Country

Winnie Ruth Judd was sentenced to hang Friday, April 21, for the murder of Agnes Anne Lerot, one of two friends whom she is said to have killed. Mrs. Judd was denied clemency Friday after repeated attempts to escape the gallows.

In a plane crash Friday, several members of a Canadian basket ball team and others were killed near Neodesha, Kansas. Six people were dead and others were critically injured.

President Roosevelt signed the Cope-land-Cellar medicinal liquor bill removing restriction on the amount doctors may prescribe.

John H. Hall of Multnomah county was the first to file with secretary of state as a candidate for delegate to the state convention to consider the repeal of the 18th amendment. He favors repeal and filed last week.

Charles E. Mitchell, former head of the National City bank, New York, has been indicted by a federal grand jury for willful evasion of his income tax.

A cut of 15 per cent in the salaries of federal employees was effective April 1, according to executive order. The cut affects postoffice and reclamation people in this section.

The government's edict that hoarded gold be turned into the banks is said to have brought out \$503,000,000 in March.

The Anti-Sales Tax Federation is the suggested title of an organization to oppose the tax measure that is to be voted on July 21 in Oregon. Under leadership of Ray Gill, master of the state grange, an aggressive campaign is to be waged against the adoption of the sales tax. Senator Strayer of Baker took the position in a recent address that the tax could have been avoided by an adequate amount of budget slashing. He declares it was adopted to avoid further economies in state government.

The Silverton Hills, Or., grange has proposed the abolishment of the lower house of the Oregon legislature, suggesting an initiative measure from the state grange.

CHANGING MONEY STANDARD

Part II

By A. D. Moses, Nyssa

A government banking system could do away with national money or currency, and become a government book-keeping establishment where accounts would be taken care of, and checked against the same as our present banking system, except that a stamp would be affixed to each check issued. The stamp affixed to each check would be the main revenue to take care of the expense of operating the government banks. An additional revenue could be obtained by charging a penalty of 1 per cent per month for withholding large amounts from circulation.

In the case of making helpful loans to individuals or corporations it would be specifically understood that the party obtaining the loan would be borrowing his own credit and the amount of the loan would be gauged by the credit worth of the individual or corporation. The cost of borrowing one's own credit would not exceed 3 per cent per annum. Under this banking system together with a standardization of commodity prices and a standard wage scale it would seem that bank failures and panics would be next to impossible.

Section 4. Protection
As a precaution against forgery and check raising, each patron having a checking account would be issued blank checks with a customer number printed on each blank, thereby making each check book an individual in itself. A protectograph check could be used, also when necessary a certified check. As a further protection a general description of the check writer, as to sex, stature, and occupation, could be provided for with a space at one end of the check.

As a penalty for overdraft a ten per cent charge could be made. In a case of deliberate overdraft to swindle the bank, the party guilty would be

black listed and punished as a criminal.

In the case of a patron moving from one district to another the patron must first file his intentions of doing so with his bank and get his membership card and credentials before he can enter an account with another bank.

In the case of a patron who fails to repay his borrowed credit when due, an amount of 25 per cent would be deducted from his deposits until the amount borrowed is paid in full with additional 2 per cent penalty.

It must be emphatically understood that if this banking system is to survive a standard of values or prices must be adopted for each and every commodity and service this earth produces. Thereby avoiding fluctuating condition, such as peaks of prosperity and depressions of despair.

This banking system could in some respects be operated in a similar manner as our present banking and clearing house systems. In other respects it would resemble our present government postal system, as it would be a service of the government for the people.

(Continued next week)

NYSSA LIBRARY HOURS

Town patrons, 2:30 to 5:30.
Out of town patrons, 2:30 to 7:30.

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Every Two Minutes ANOTHER HOME BURNS

If you are underinsured, or if you let your fire insurance lapse even for a single day, your property values are exposed to loss.

Fires occur unexpectedly and destroy much valuable property in a brief time. You owe it to yourself to be carefully protected. How could you be adequately compensated for your loss if you were uninsured or underinsured?

Let us help you obtain an appraisal, make suggestions, and furnish adequate insurance.

Don M. Graham
THE INSURANCE MAN