

# THE GATE CITY JOURNAL

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## T. A. WALTERS

Malheur county people, young and old, rejoice with Idaho in the appointment of "General" T. A. Walters of Caldwell to the important federal office of first assistant secretary of the interior. He has become a member of the official family of President Roosevelt and will aid in guiding the destiny of this Administration.

Mr. Walters is particularly well fitted for the office he has achieved. He is not only familiar with problems of the west which come under the jurisdiction of this department but has worked and lived these problems. Beyond his capabilities, we rejoice in the fact that he is a local man, a citizen and community leader of Caldwell. We are told that a good many Nyssa people know him as a former friend and neighbor. With them we find happiness in his success.

His job at Washington is by no means a small one. This year his department will operate under a budget of \$43,000,000 while two years ago it received \$83,000,000. It will be his responsibility to save as well as spend. He has been assigned the bureau of reclamation and the Indian bureau by Secretary Ickes. His duties are both executive and judicial. With Mr. Ickes, he will supervise 13,000 employes.

The banquet honoring Mr. Walters was an occasion for people of Nyssa and Malheur county. They enjoyed the opportunity of meeting him and they liked the quiet-spoken man from Caldwell whose words rang with sin-

cerity—particularly those serious words which voiced his ideals of good government. The people of the Snake river valley know they have a good man, from among them, in Washington.

## MEET THE ISSUE

Reports are published of a possible attack on the constitutionality of the law calling for a convention to consider the amendment repealing the 18th amendment. Dries are said to be the ones considering the resort to legal action. The contention is that because delegates have to take a pledge to abide by the vote of their counties regardless of their personal views on the prohibition issue the convention will not be a deliberative body and so the scheme is unconstitutional.

Without venturing to express an opinion on the constitutionality question, most of us will find ourselves out of sympathy with this move. The inhibitions are as bad on the wets as on the dries so there is no unfairness in the law. Moreover the fears of the dries are very very remote. There is scant chance that a county which votes wet would elect a delegate whose platform was dry. Nor would a dry county elect a wet delegate. People may do some foolish things but they are not that stupid when it comes to balloting.

We do not anticipate that any delegate would have to violate his own conscience in order to carry out the terms of the pledge the law requires him to sign. So far as the ruse of staying away from the convention concerned, that is open to either party and is one of the elements of political strategy which has to be considered.

## BUSY DAYS ON THE FARM

While June is commonly known as the nicest month of the year, to the farmer it is the busiest. He now finds his work almost doubled, or tripled, and the rush season runs far into the fall—until the apples are stored away for the winter.

He planted late this year on account of continued cold weather. Planting was hardly over when irrigation, cultivating and spraying followed in close order. Now he is beginning the harvest season with the first cutting of hay, with the harvest of green peas and other June crops.

Although the season is somewhat late, farmers will begin digging their early potatoes during the first half of July. Many then will whip the ground into shape for another crop, perhaps fall lettuce, which promises to be an important crop in the Nyssa section again this fall. It is not unusual for the soil to do double duty in a single season.

Harvesting of the grain crop usually gets under way in July and then comes the autumn with the harvest of prunes, apples, potatoes, beans, clover and varied products which make the lower Snake river famous for diversified farming.

Some say "when grain gets ripe winter is just around the corner," so busily and swiftly the growing season speeds on. If it brings the remunerative prices farmers have long awaited the coming fall will be the happiest season farmers have seen in several harvest moons.

## YES PRICES ARE GOING UP

For two successive months, according to a graph in the New York Times, the index of commodity prices has been moving upward without interruption.

The nation-wide policy of the moment is to raise prices to a more normal level and, by one means or another, keep them there.

Here are two facts that should interest every property-owner, and every potential builder. They mean that present low prices are doomed; that we're going to pay more for what we buy—whether it's food and clothing, or a new house.

The wise citizen who possibly can, will spend now, when it will get him the largest dollar's worth he has ever known. And he will spend largely on property-improvement, where it will give him something of real and permanent value. There is hardly one of us who hasn't let his property slide a little the past few years. We have put off painting, repairing, installing labor-saving machinery in kitchen and laundry, building a new garage, overhauling the heating plant, repairing or replacing the roof, walks, fences etc. But we have now reached the point where if we put it off any longer it will mean dollars out of pocket.

And when we build and repair, we are doing our bit toward stimulating employment. Our dollars will pass through the hands of workers in a hundred industries. We are increasing purchasing power, and laying the groundwork for future prosperity for ourselves as well.

## COMMENTS BY CLARK WOOD

Harvey Firestone, who says good times are on the road, perhaps means that they are if his tires are.

A nine-pound trout is reported from Bend, Oregon, to have swallowed a rattlesnake and a ten-inch waterdog, but we've not been able to similarly dispose of the yarn.

The burned child may dread the fire, but the same guy who lost his shirt in Wall Street is probably staking his B V D'S.

Anyhow, by "making fish of one and fowl of another" the House of Morgan has managed to make both ends meet.

As to the beauty shop's business, it is always improving.

With the start that has been made the states may make repeal of the 18th amendment unanimous. Ten states have voted for repeal and no state has yet voted against. Five states vote on the question this month. Oregon will make her decision at the special election July 21.

A scientist says that greenbacks breed disease. There is no question that the fever for them is contagious.

## Voice of the Press

### MORE ON SALES TAX

We have received some eight long pages of propaganda designed to further the cause of the proposed sales tax, accompanied by a kind letter granting us permission to publish it. The letterhead states that it is "The Property Tax Reduction Committee," and carries a long list of names on it. We have tried to read the stuff carefully, but are as yet not convinced that the sales tax is all it is supposed to be. We fail to find any tax reduction—merely a shifting of taxes, and this shift to be made to the national goat, the ultimate consumer. A few extracts are pertinent:

"The most thoughtful men in the state have considered the problem and have concluded that the counties cannot survive under the present system. Tax delinquencies, ranging from 29 per cent in Multnomah to 79 per cent in Curry, and showing a statewide average of 38 per cent, December 1, have forced cities, counties and school districts to attempt to maintain budgeted expenditures by using warrants. The banks have reached the saturation point in absorbing warrants in many localities, and local merchants are finding it extremely difficult to go any farther than they have already in extending help by taking warrants in payment for goods."

You will notice that it says . . . "have forced cities, counties and school districts to attempt to maintain budgeted expenditures by issuing warrants." There is the nut of the matter. They are not trying to seriously cut expenditures, but "attempting to maintain" them. Why not try the other awhile?

Again: "One example examined shows a cash-and-carry store with a stock of less than \$10,000, assessed fairly high March 1, and paying a personal property tax of \$300, which is said to have reached a volume of sales estimated at \$300,000 in one year. Under the sales tax this store would be taxed as to gross income and would pay \$6000. It is apparently the only logical answer to the chain store problem, as far as the independent merchant is concerned."

Note that it says this store would pay \$6000 per year. They're wrong. The store would not pay it—it would be paid by the customer and the store would be relieved of the \$300 it now pays.—Halsey Journal.

## PROGRESS IN TAX CUTTING REVEALED

Salem—Marked progress in the reduction of taxes all down the line is shown in a comparison of tax summaries for the current year with those of a year ago.

Oregon property owners this year are contributing a total of \$42,042,546 toward the support of government—state, county, city, school and road district—compared to \$42,979,176 a year ago. The reduction is even more marked when it is considered that the state levy which was waived last year was restored for the current year increasing the burden by approximately \$2,725,000.

Malheur county's levy for all purposes was reduced from \$559,446 in 1932 to \$483,181.82 for 1933.

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