

# THE GATE CITY JOURNAL

W. F. AND ALMA McLING, Publishers

Subscription, Year \$1.50  
Subscription, 6 Months .75c

Entered at the Post Office at Nyssa, Oregon, as Second Class Matter

## VOTERS SPEAK

No county in Oregon defeated the sales tax by a great majority than Malheur county whose voting citizens rejected the proposed "nuisance" tax almost eight to one last Friday. The people of Malheur county want no more taxes, the people of Oregon want no more taxes.

The sales tax, adding a 2 per cent charge to every potential sale, to a necessity and luxury, was passed by the Oregon legislature at an expensive session which followed a special sales tax session that alone cost the state \$10,-

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000. Objections to the sales tax were many and dated back to the time it was proposed by Governor Meier. Officials urged a sales tax while the people urged fewer state officials and less expense. The legislature refused to listen. The sales tax was passed.

Had it not been for the initiative and referendum, we would now be paying this added tax. We would be at the mercy of legislators who forget their pre-election promises. Quite frequently the referendum system has been attacked as useless and a joke but it seems it is the people's only safeguard when those in control attempt to cram selfish and objectionable measures down the taxpaying throat.

Again, the voters have spoken. Oregon will have no sales tax.

## NEAR FUTURE LOOKS ROSY

The biggest thing that has happened to Nyssa and other Malheur county towns, for all will share, is the announcement that the Owyhee and Vale projects are programmed for early completion. Secretary of the Interior Ickes said Monday 1850 men will be put to work, 1500 on the Owyhee, 350 on the Vale.

An appropriation of six million dollars, under the public works bill, will be expended this year. Not all of the work will be machine construction as Ickes has recommended hand labor wherever possible. This will put an army of men back to work.

Under the new regime jobs must come first. That is the goal of the administration's public works measure under which every attempt is being made to humanize the relief program. The permanent values to be created and the repayment of the government are important but not as important as employment. This is the greatest reason the reclamation program in the west came out on top. Its works will employ men now. Its reclamation of dry land will employ people in self-subsisting homes they otherwise could not hold. Return will not only pay for reservoirs and canals but for roads, schools, homes.

We are fortunate in occupying the central point of this development. The work will employ men and bring others out of the red. It will help the laborer, the producer, the grocer, butcher and baker. It will help all around.

## OPPORTUNITY IS KNOCKING

Property owners who have been planning to repair old structures or build new ones better get busy unless they wish to pay heavily for delay. With better crop prices, heavy public expenditures for bridges, roads, public buildings, it is not difficult to imagine rapid improvement in the employment situation and commodity price levels.

Cement, lumber, paint, structural steel, electrical equipment and all manner of building supplies will probably never again, in a generation at least, be at the bargain counter prices we have been witnessing. Today property owners can improve an old building or build a new one, from concrete foundation to fire-resisting roof, at record low figures. There is abundant labor, both skilled and unskilled. It seems certain that the foregoing combination of circumstances is doomed.

The investor in construction activity today not only gets double return for his money, but helps to start normal employment in the wage and price structures, which will rebound in benefits to himself in better business and rental values.

Remember that investment and employment are cheap and better than charity.

## RADICAL, MAYBE—COMMUNISTIC, NEVER

Is Communism really spreading over the United States? Is it a menace to our own government founded on the principle of liberty for every man? Are the scattered demonstrations we have read about during the past years proof that our form of government is not satisfactory? We say NO, but we do believe the time for a thorough check-up long ago arrived. This check-up is beginning, as we see it.

At the recent meeting of wheat growers of Malheur county, when the farm allotment plan was explained by leaders of the state extension department, our farmers were there to learn. Many of them had suffered reverses, almost the loss of their farms through low prices. But they said nothing of this. A change had come and they welcomed it as a way out. The meeting here was without question no more encouraging than similar meetings throughout the country.

A few years ago, control of acreage would have been considered very radical but the world did not stand still. What was radical yesterday is in many instances rational today.

Nor is our form of government to blame for the changes that have come and caused our people concern. Some ills developed from false leadership and negligence of the people who after all ARE the government. We do not escape responsibility. Other ills were the result of the uncontrolled machine age. The shake-up came, we took an inventory but we have not lost our love of country.

Now, for a glance at the Communist. In what does he believe? A congressional committee in an official report defined Communism thus:

- A world-wide organization advocating—
1. Hatred of God in all forms of religion.
  2. Destruction of private property and inheritance.
  4. Revolutionary propaganda.
  6. The ultimate and final objective is world revolution and the dictatorship of the so-called proletariat into one union of Socialist Republics with the world capital at Moscow.
- How could Communism spread in America with such a program?

## EDITORIAL COMMENTS BY CLARK WOOD

It's a quieting thought that our foreign relations are, as a rule, distant ones.

Again the farmer is "feeling his oats," but it's wheat he's likely to be holding.

Jack Dempsey is getting more wedding ring experience.

## Voice of the Press

JULY

This is the month in which, if you live in the north temperate zone where the weather gets intemperately hot, you wish you lived in the south temperate zone where—but you probably overlook this fact—the weather may get intemperately cold. All of which is just as true vice versa. And all of which seems to prove just one thing: that in July the zone called temperate is anything but.

Still one must be on guard lest he show a less-than-human ingratitude toward a month in which pleasant days are so taken for granted that only the unpleasant ones are really noticed. July is a period in which one—north of the Equator—should count his blessing in bees and blooms and butterflies, in dappled lawns and singing trees, and in America, in the Sabbath-like quiet that steals through shady streets after the last Fourth-of-July firecracker has popped.

And speaking of firecrackers, lovers of freedom in many lands have reason to think of July as a month for celebration. Canada's Dominion Day, France's Bastille Day, and Independence days of Venezuela, Peru and Belgium share this month with the United States "glorious Fourth."

Yes, with a not to existing book at hand, a palm leaf fan on the grassy turf beside your easy chair and a tall glass of lemonade on the garden table, it's a great month if you don't weaken. And why should you?—C. S. Monitor.

## WHY GET UP NIGHTS?

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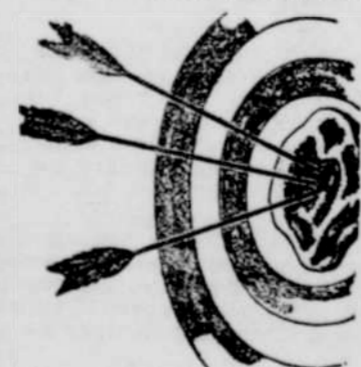
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