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EAT MORE BUTTER

There's a butter surplus of millions of pounds but it could be cut down in a week if every family, who could well afford too, would use a bit more butter each day. The price is so low, it is inexpensive to use in cooking and baking as well as on the table. Yes, butter is low in price, too low for the comfort of the farmer, but as rich in vitamins as ever.

The federal farm administration has set itself to the task of working out a plan, through a processing tax and by other means, to increase the price of dairy and poultry products which lag behind other farm commodities. Of course the farmers will welcome this and others of us who depend to a large extent upon the farm trade in an agricultural country.

But the consumer must be able to buy. Here, again we see the great good that will come from the far reaching

public works program. If the laborer has money, he can buy butter and other goods—for his family. It is all one, great interlocking problem.

Malheur county, being a heavy butter producing region, could start this eat-more-butter campaign. Many of our men have gone back to work, there should be more prosperity for all of us, so let's not forget the dairyman.

A NEW CAMPAIGN

Having failed with a sales tax for property relief by an overwhelming vote at the special election in July, politicians have turned to "a sales tax for relief of schools" after they refused to consider an income tax and other bills for school relief which were tabled at the recent session of the legislature.

Passage of a sales tax for school relief was a clever move in the effort to get such a measure on the statute books of Oregon for many patrons and teachers may be expected to work for the measure. Already there have been stories told that unless the sales tax is voted there may not be any more school in certain districts. To counteract this campaign, the Oregon Journal, enemy of the sales tax, has already started a drive which might be called, "Pay your school tax—if you can't pay your other taxes, then there will be no need for the sales tax on everything you eat and wear."

Voters of Oregon have indicated that they are strongly opposed the sales tax. The new proposal is being widely assailed. Many newspapers say once it is enacted under the pretext of aiding schools, more and more public money will be diverted to politicians. There is also the threat that if a sales tax is passed, tax on incomes can be abolished. Who should pay additional taxes, the rich, or those already overburdened?

REFINANCING THE FARMER

President Roosevelt's program for extending relief to farm mortgages, if wisely developed and administered, is the agricultural counterpart of the work of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation in banking and industry.

If the endeavor succeeds even reasonably well, it should not in the long run cost the Government or the taxpayers anything, just as the R. F. C. should eventually be able to realize the aggregate value of the loans it has made and so pay back the money advanced from the Treasury. The farm finance plan does not resort to the Treasury at the beginning, though it will lean upon the Government's credit later. It will go immediately to the investors of the country for its funds.

In many instances it will go to investors who already hold farm mortgages and who may be willing to exchange 7 per cent yields for a much more certain 4 per cent to be gathered and paid through the Federal Land Banks. In these cases the land bank will strike a new bargain with the farmer who made the mortgage, writing his interest down to, say, 4 1-2 per cent, which will be more within his ability to pay. In other instances the Government will seek to sell these bonds to persons hoarding cash in their deposit boxes. This money it would lend to some farmer whose waiting creditor would like to get his money back to spend.

The presumption is—and it seems a reasonable one—that, apart from any guarantee, the mortgages taken over or made by the land banks would yield a sufficient return to cover the obligations to the new bondholders. If by this method a downward revision of agricultural interest rates can be made, it promises to be a most fundamental type of farm relief.

EDITORIALS TABLOIDS BY CLARK WOOD

The Lindberghs did pretty well in the matrimonial game when each took a flier.

It is by no means unlikely that before the end of 1934 a new band of unshorn lambs will be rushing into Wall Street to show that neither are they afraid of the Big Bad Bear.

A majority isn't always right. A nudist colony is practically unanimous for nudism, and a cannibal tribe for cannibalism.

The intemperate drinker is apt to find that he is still violating a constitution, while it lasts.

The boloney manufacturers appear to be making both ends meet.

Around the Country

Thursday, December 21, the shortest day of the year, was also the warmest December 21st on record in eastern Oregon. Records of temperature and precipitation for December 1917 are similar to those of this unusual month.

Startling the court, Judge Jas. T. Brand of Marshfield Friday ruled that Vic McCallister, who pleaded guilty to driving the car which killed Lewis Combs, must provide \$20 a month for the Combs family for five years or go to prison.

President Roosevelt's silver buying order of last week end promised to stimulate mining in eastern Oregon and Idaho. Governor Ross called it one of the greatest acts of the administration. "It will put hundreds of men to work," he said.

Dr. Sidney Kramer announced Thursday that an immunizing vaccine has been developed which may lead to conquering infantile paralysis. The vaccine, aimed at the disease which is responsible for more than half of the nation's cripples, has proved effective in three-fourths of the animal test cases—a ratio fully as high as that used against diphtheria. Dr. Kramer warned that much remains to be done before the vaccine is available for general use.

NEW YEAR'S DAY

New Year's Day, the first of the year is a day for religious celebration. This celebration has existed far back into ancient times. The Jews, Babylonians, Egyptians, Chinese and the Romans started this celebration and gave presents as we do at our Christmas, but the dates differ widely.

The Romans observed New Year's Day in March. This was changed by Numa and the date now used was established.

A very quaint Scottish custom was to be the first visitor of the new year. There are many religious sacraments offered on this day. In the Roman Catholic church the Feast of the Circumcision is held very sacred, while in the Protestant churches watch par-

ties are prevalent. At these much fun is had as well as a very impressive service held at midnight.

THE PASSING YEAR

The year that we measured has ended And has fused with the eons sublime. The landmarks we knew have all blended In the age old image of time.

Its suns and its shadows have perished Like the love that we quickly forget; But the spring and the autumn it cherished Still haunt with a tinge of regret.

We meet on this threshold each season And we sigh as the sands must drift by. Each grain is as precious as reason, For they total the years 'til we die.

—Ex.

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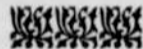
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