

THE GATE CITY JOURNAL

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TAXES DECREASE IN MALHEUR

In economy, Malheur county is making a favorable showing in a state of Oregon comparison by the Oregon Voter. According to the statistics, Malheur is one of 17 counties that show decrease. The reduction is 8.36 per cent, Malheur being eleventh on the honor roll. Eighteen counties show an increase.

Outstanding among those counties which cut their taxes is Harney, where the new Hines lumber mill has gone in. The reduction is 35.95 per cent. The decrease in per capita property tax is from \$98.82 to \$63.29 in 1931. Industrial population and growth is the greatest help in reducing property taxes.

In most of the agricultural counties, the per capita tax burden has risen. If there is virtue in thrift, Malheur may pat herself on the back. The per capita reduction is from \$71.85 in 1921 to \$65.84 in 1931.

NYSSA—TO A VISITOR

The town of Nyssa was a revelation to a caller at The Journal office Saturday, who had been told in Mountain Home that Nyssa consisted of a garage and store. He had heard much of the Owyhee irrigation project and expected to find no cultivated farms. Tall sage brush, miles of sage, was the mind picture he had formed. Instead he found a bustling community, handsome buildings, tree-lined streets, new homes, orchards, green fields—growth everywhere, and sage beyond in which to expand miles further.

"Nyssa people show progress," he stated. "The many new residences here are the best evidence of good faith I have seen in a trip through numerous towns. I notice that Nyssa people do not stop at building but are improving their properties with trees, beautiful lawns and gardens."

"I see that business is brisk, that stores do a flourishing trade. One can tell that a payroll is near by the many workmen that flock the town."

The visitor took a drive through the farming country west and north of town and we are glad to say was more firmly convinced that Nyssa is a fortunate community.

In summing up the impressions of our visitor, we might add that he was as appreciative of the hospitality of the city as its appearance. He said he was greeted with a smile and handshake at every stop. It was, "How are you?" "Going to stay?" or "Nice day," all in a neighborly, welcoming way.

What was the effect of so favorable an impression? The visitor, owner of a farm in Idaho, stated that for once in his life he had the urge to move. He would like a tract on the Owyhee project—where land and hopes are new.

MEMORIAL DAY—

A little over 63 years ago, Memorial day was inaugurated by a general order from John A. Logan, commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, May 5, 1868. The order designated May 30 of the same year as the day for strewing flowers on the graves of soldiers who died in the Civil war.

POPPY DAY—

Among the French farmers who till the battle fields of the World War there is a tradition where the men fell thickest the little wild poppies push up their blooms in the greatest profusion. A symbolic connection is seen between the blood of the slain and the bright red blossoms of the poppies. The poppy has become recognized the world over as the hero's flower. Saturday, May 23, the poppy was worn by millions in tribute to the World War dead.

PAYETTE EDITION FINE

The Journal received a copy of the special edition of the Payette Independent, edited by James Dement and Milton Jones. It is pointed out that although Payette is the smallest of Idaho counties, consisting of 414 square miles, it is not the most backward or least prosperous. Its population increased from 7021 to 7319 people in the last decade. Many fine pictures, numerous advertisements and interesting stories combined to make the edition most excellent. We congratulate the new publishers.

ODD, ISN'T IT?

American humor magazines buy some of their best laughs from inmates of the Ohio state penitentiary.

At Rocky Boy, Mont., Indians have a stump carved to resemble a man which they worship. This American idol is located within two miles of a Lutheran church.

The Edwards county (Ill.) poorhouse is for sale because of lack of patronage. No one except the superintendent lived there and his contract expired in April.

A seven-months old baby was recently operated upon at an Atlanta, Ga., hospital.

The Cleveland, Ohio, fire department has hired a woman as a regular member of the department.

When Thomas Jefferson brought the tomato to America from France he thought it would be good food for hogs.

A 102-year-old California mother asked to be admitted to the county poor farm to escape the pranks of her 70-year-old baby boy.

Grand Rapids, Mich., has appointed a special police squad to prevent golfers "from batting golf balls around public places other than golf links."

Dr. Mann of the national zoo says that elephants forget as rapidly as any other animal and that the old saying "an elephant never forgets" is just hokey.

PLANT A TREE

"He that plants a tree loves others besides himself."

Alarmed by the \$102,055,400 loss occasioned by the 134,895 forest fires in the United States in a single year, a renaissance of reforestation has dawned. The government, states, universities, industrial organizations and individuals have taken off their coats and started digging in trees, and next year the Daughters of the American Revolution plan to tuck up their aristocratic skirts and plant 10,000 saplings as a memorial to our first president. Before the depression, in 1929, there was a total acreage of 107,557 set out in continental United States. Twenty-one states and territories contributed 31,557 planted acres, municipalities 5,900 more, and lumber companies, pulp and paper, water and power, mining, railroads and other industrials added 25,088 acres. New York State (which in 1850 produced 20 per cent of our lumber, and which now cuts less than one per cent is particularly aroused. The college of forestry at Syracuse is advocating a plan for the scientific reforestation of 9,300,000 waste acres. This constructive and laudable suggestion bids fair to be adopted. A pending constitutional amendment, if passed, will provide millions for tree planting. Already the state maintains five tree nurseries having an annual output of 40,000,000 trees. "A twig in time becomes a tree." Let's plant a twig.

THEIR MEMORIAL MESSAGE—"KEEP FAITH!"

America's pre-eminence among the nations could not have been attained without fighting. War is detestable, but America's wars have been necessary not only for normal national progress, but also for sheer self-preservation. War marked the birth of the Republic. War to save the Republic from disintegration could not be averted. War to assert the Republic's dignity and to uphold the ideal of democracy against the assaults of arrogant autocracy gave the United States new claims to greatness.

War is detestable, for it is essentially savage. Men in wars are devoted to the work of killing. They expose themselves to the chance of being killed by men whom they have never seen and against whom they have no personal enmity. And, worst of all, in war might makes right, and victory may be a triumph of injustice. Because war is an abomination the nation's gratitude to the men who have fought America's great wars is all the more profound. And the nation's debt to men who have given their lives is too great ever to be paid.

It is at best but a poor tribute that we can pay on Memorial day. The flowers with which we cover the graves cannot restore the joy of life to young men whose sacrifice has made our own lives livable. Our tribute is a rite. It is our expression of appreciation, and at the same time it assuages a certain hurt in our own conscience. It goes a little way toward making us feel a little less cautious and selfish is not remembering every day instead of one day a year.

Surely it is not too much for every one to contribute a little to the observance of the one day devoted to the memory of those who have given everything for us. Memorial day should not be regarded merely as a holiday, a day of merrymaking and recreation. Its significance is too much forgotten; it is the way of human nature to forget that which is not joyous and to seize for pleasure any moment which offers. Today let us remember. Let us all give serious thought to the greatness of our debt. Memorial day thus solemnized must make the United States a finer nation and the people of the United States worthier of the inestimable privileges which have been won and safeguarded for them by the men who lie in patriots graves.

After all, deaf mutes are about the only people who have no troubles to speak of.

This is the time of the year when it is more apt to be stir the average man into activity is a bee.

Although it requires several hundred nuts to hold an automobile together, one can drive it.

This is the time of the year when it is more apt to be young onions than halitosis

About the only thing Nevada can do now is to pass a law making divorce compulsory.

The newest collegiate fad is a sweater with wisecracks woven into it. Knit wit, eh?

If a fellow works hard and saves his money by the time he is 50 he can afford a nervous breakdown.

Voice of the Press

JUDGE GRAHAM RECOMMENDS SALLUST FOR SHROPSHIRE

"What a pity, what a pity!" explained County Judge Graham of Malheur county when Phil Meteschan told him that Yale had cut out Latin and Greek as required subjects for a bachelor of arts degree. "It will soon be that all a lad will have to know to graduate from college will be the first pages in Bobby Jones' book on golf and the proper approach from bridge."

When David F. Graham was in college, the students wrote sonnets in Latin and gave Greek orations. Great brain developers, they thought. And as he herded sheep on Malheur's thousand hills he read Plato with joy and Cicero with avidity. That was some time since. But he still advises eastern Oregon shepherders to brush up on their Latin and Greek before going on the range.

Young Graham was a sickly lad back in Glasgow. As he went roamin' in the gloamin' by th' bonny banks of Clyde he coughed so badly that his family believed he must soon die. Being thrifty Scots, they didn't wish an undertaker's bill just then, so David was sent to an uncle away out in Oregon. That was in 1898. The uncle took quite a fancy to the lad. He determined to restore his strength, so sent him out under the wide and starry sky to bring back his health.

"He said to me, says he, 'David, my lad, just go out an' help th' sheep take care of the sheep a fortnight or two, 'twill do ye a world o' good!'" So I went as he told me," explained Judge Graham in the Imperial hotel a couple of days ago. And now you won't believe what I am tellin' ye—that fortnight lasted just four years. All that time I was herdin' my uncle's sheep up in Malheur county. But when I came out o' th' sagebrush, I was a well man."

He hurried back to Glasgow just as fast as he could, as soon as he counted the shillings his uncle paid him. A great city, Glasgow. Millions of people. Bonnie lassies. Ships from everywhere bring romance to the port. Fine schools and university. But it wasn't long until David Graham heard the sagebrush calling. Back to Oregon he came. And he settled in Malheur county.

The young man went into the sheep business for a short time. Then he studied law. All the while he was buying books. He is an intimate friend of all the characters in Dickens and Scott and Stevenson. He's a chum of Bobby Burns and Wordsworth and Tennyson. He plays around with Kipling and Drinkwater, and also knows his French and American authors.

Judge Graham's library is now one of the sights of Vale, where he makes his home. But all his time is not spent in reading. His county is almost as large as all Scotland, at least he thinks so when he starts to go over it. He is greatly interested in getting better roads for his section, and his trip to Portland last week was to tell the state highway commission about the section from the end of the improved road to Junipers.

"If they'll improve that wee section, then all of the boys can get out of the sagebrush when they want to," he said, as he hurried out of the lobby to go to the nearest book store to buy more classics, Oregonian.

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We can't quite get the drift of those who are advocating a special session of the state legislature for the purpose of cutting down automobile license fees to a flat \$3 basis. It is unthinkable that these men, among whom are the officers of the Oregon State Motor association, want to see all new construction work on the highways of the state stopped. There seems then to be but two other alternatives, one to raise the tax on gasoline from 4 to about seven cents, and the other to levy a property tax on all cars, and thus raise the necessary revenue for continuance of the present building program.

We are dead opposed to any curtailment of the construction program for the next few years and until we shall have completed our major and secondary system throughout the state. Also we believe the present method of raising money for highway purposes from license fees and a moderate gas tax is fairly good. It was adopted only a year or two back, and after careful consideration of all angles of the situation.

Of course there is a nigger in the woodpile somewhere, and he will eventually get out. So we shall have to wait and see what the fuss is all about.—John Day Ranger.

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