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Editorial Page of The Capital Journal

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A MISLEADING STATEMENT

"It will not cost the taxpayers anything." That is the statement that has been quite common among the legislators. It was invoked when the senate proposed to create the office of fire chief and establish a host of fire inspectors at every cross roads in the state. "It will not cost the taxpayers anything," because the funds collected by the insurance department will meet all the bills. The bill simply provides that these inspectors shall be paid out of any funds in the hands of the insurance department.

"It will not cost the taxpayers anything," was the main reliance in those backing the six million dollar road bonding bill in the senate yesterday. "The money collected from automobile licenses will pay the interest, and at the rate of increase in the number of machines in the twenty-five years the bonds have to run the licenses so collected will pay off the principal as well as the interest."

"It will not cost the taxpayers anything," is a fatuous cry. The money to pay the fire chief and the inspectors in the fire protection bill comes from the people of Oregon. The money paid for auto licenses comes from the auto owners of the state.

It seems the legislators have an idea that if money collected from the people of the state can be kept from going into the state treasury that the dear taxpayers are not out anything. They have never grasped the idea that if the insurance department or any other collects more money than is needed to conduct it, that the surplus should go into the state treasury and become part of the state's funds. They do not seem to catch on to the fact that the licenses paid by autoists, could be turned into the general road funds of the state and thus prevent any question of the constitutionality of the license, or at least leave that question in as good shape as it is under the present system.

If the license charge is constitutional in one case it is in the other; yet the advocates of the bond issue tell the people, "It will not cost the taxpayers anything."

The money collected from automobile licenses is paid into the office of the secretary of state. It is the state's money, but because it has not been turned into the general fund these word prestidigitators tell us that although the state has collected the money, and it is in the hands of one of its officials, that it does not belong to the state and that it is not the taxpayers' money.

If it was not used to pay interest it could be paid for some other purpose, simply because it is money belonging to the state. We are not saying this as an objection to the bond issue. That, it has been decided to leave to the people. If they want it it is their privilege to say so. If they do not want it then it is for them to vote that way. It is the self-evident falsehood of the statement that is objectionable. Any measure that has to be backed by falsehood is something to be suspected. There is no occasion for deceiving ourselves, or trying to deceive others. The bond measure should stand squarely on its merits, and the faked up proposition that "it will not cost the taxpayers anything" should be sent to the background, for there is no truth in it.

The dispatches say that should we come to blows with Germany the doughty and somewhat paunchy Colonel will lead a division on the battle fronts of Europe. When American troops are sent to Europe this might possibly prove true, but there is little likelihood of this country taking that course. The American boys are not going to take part in that row. If America goes to war with her old friend it will be on her own account and not for the purpose of helping the allies.

Onions are worth more than oranges, and are just as fragrant, provided one likes that peculiar odor. At six cents a pound lots of the big ones grown in Oregon's famous beaver dam lands will sell for more than six cents a piece.

The legislature adjourned and it did not even wait until the next day to move. It was a cold day when the legislature left.

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TO AID BONDED COUNTIES

An amendment to the bonding bill was proposed by Senator Eddy yesterday to the effect that the Highway Commission should not expend in any of the counties that have already exhausted bond issues in building roads, greater than the amount expended in this way and from money derived from millage road tax. Senator Olson objected to this amendment on the ground that Columbia county and perhaps Hood River county also had expended all the money they could raise by bonds and this amendment would prevent the completion of the Columbia highway. It would take \$700,000 to do the work in Columbia county and that county being poor had already bonded itself to the limit, which, with its millage tax, only amounted to about \$400,000. If this amendment passed, this section of the road could not be finished. It was the same in Hood River. He pointed out that it would take a million dollars to complete this work, so necessary for Portland's use, and also that as Multnomah county waived all rights to any of the funds it would not be asking too much that this deficiency be overcome by using a few hundred thousand dollars to aid the poorer and exhausted counties. The amendment was withdrawn. While the proposition is fair enough it at the same time shows that Multnomah's generosity has a string on it. As a matter of fact there are few if any roads in Multnomah county that would come under the heads of those proposed to be built. It is one of the smallest counties, but contains more than one-third of the taxable property, and hence has its roads in fine shape. It has built good roads and paid for them itself, and it is only natural that it should want some of the money raised by this bond issue spent on roads connecting with its own road system. It is also natural that Multnomah should want the first money available expended to complete the system already started connecting it with the country around, and it was to this end the metropolis waived the right to the expenditure of any part of the money to come from the bond sale, inside of Multnomah boundaries.

The six million bond issue will be up to the people to decide at a special election to be held June 4 of this year. This was practically agreed to yesterday afternoon when the senate sent the amended bill back to the house for concurrence. The date was selected as Senator Olson explained it, because on that day the city of Portland has a city election and it would make a saving in election expenses of some \$20,000. Senator Pierce wanted his bill for a millage tax to be submitted at the same time, but it seems the senate is not in a mood to do this. The plans are not exactly opposite, but it was feared by some senators, or at least they claimed to fear, that if both plans were submitted that both might be defeated, the voters thinking the tax too great.

The fight promoters, or to be exact, the boxing contest managers are having a hard time getting Les Darcy into the ring. He seems to prefer to be the center of attraction on the sport pages of the newspapers rather than to be admired in action in the center of the squared circle. If he had been around the legislature here during the past few days he would sure have been indefinitely postponed. That is what the scrap managers better do with him until he shows a disposition to get in and show what he can do. The opinion is fast gathering force that the great Australian is also a great faker.

The Statesman says "the home of the most beautiful women in the world is Western Oregon." Perhaps, brother, perhaps. The Willamette Valley is some shakes on pulchritude, but while admitting this glorious Webfoot is the home of most beautiful women, fairness compels the admission that many are doing the "not at home" stunt.

It looks as though the war may after all be largely settled on the ocean. If Uncle Sam is forced into it, that is where his part will be played.



HIGH AMBITION

I'd like to be a fighter, and with the fighters stand, and whip some other blighter, to music by the band. The fighter's life is sunny, when he has reached the top; some forty kinds of money, at intervals, he'll cop. He gets a roll that's bigger than you could carry out, when he consents to figure in tinnhorn sparring bout. The most of us are striving, each day, the whole year long, that we may be surviving, and dodge the poor house throng. We must be most adroit, sir, and slave the livelong day, if we would earn a kreutzer, or salt a yen away. Great men of skill and knowledge, can hardly earn their slaw, professors in the college, and people learned in law; and scientists and thinkers, and eminent divines must feed their children clinkers—but how the fighter dines! He works when he gets ready, and then for half an hour; the money comes in steady, a brilliant, golden shower. I'd like to be a fighter, but I'm too fat to scrap; and so, as hungry writer, I'll serve my term mayhap.

29TH SESSION CLOSES

(Continued from page one.)

tions to the passage of H. B. No. 302, the bill requiring the Oregon and California grant lands to be placed on the tax rolls, declaring that it was not legally passed. Regarding this matter he said in his objections, which were filed with the clerk:

"I hereby wish to enter my protest upon the journal of the house against declaring H. B. No. 302 passed by the house of representatives. My reasons for this protest are set forth in the following recital of facts in connection with consideration of the bill:

"The bill came before the house from the committee on assessment and taxation, which I am chairman, without recommendation. This report was made at Mr. Bean's request, and was acquiesced in by all members of the committee. The bill had not been read or considered in the committee, but was referred to the house in this way as a personal courtesy to Mr. Bean, who said that he would rather have it so reported than to await a time when the committee could have a hearing on the matter.

"When the bill came on for third reading, Mr. Bean, the author of the bill, spoke for it. All the members of the committee on assessment and taxation and I believe all the members present voted for the bill. The bill passed February 14.

"On February 15, my attention was called to the effect of the bill and I took the matter up with the members of the committee on assessment and taxation, who had after the passage investigated the matter and were a unit against it. I talked with other members and found that practically all with whom I had time to discuss the matter felt that they had made a mistake and wished an opportunity to correct the record.

"On February 17, the senate made H. B. No. 302 a special order for 4 o'clock, and in order that the house might reconsider the vote, I moved that the bill be recalled from the senate. The bill was recalled, and the house had some two hours in which to reconsider the vote. Mr. Bean was not present, and I stated that I would not move to reconsider until he return. When he had returned, the house reconsidered the vote previously made to recall the bill from the senate and refused to recall it. At 4 o'clock Mr. Bean and myself were extended the courtesy of the senate and after the discussion of the bill as it passed the house was taken into the committee of the whole and amended by a provision referring it to the people. The bill was returned to the house and the motion made to concur in the amendments. I demanded a roll call and the final vote on the amendments, as the journal record will show, was 28 for concurring.

"On February 19 not being able to vote for a consideration myself, and knowing that Mr. Bean, the author of the bill, opposes reconsideration, I tried to get some member who voted on the prevailing side to move the reconsideration, but I failed in that effort.

"I now take this method of calling the attention of the house to this matter, that it may have an opportunity to conform to the constitutional requirements as I see them, if it so desires."

House Passes Bills

Bills passed by the house yesterday afternoon and evening:

- S. B. No. 281, by Hurler. Providing for hunting both male and female deer in Multnomah county.
- S. B. No. 293, by Handley. Providing for state aid in eradication of animal diseases.
- S. B. No. 306, by senate committee on judiciary. Providing for service in certain cases of the order provided for in section 1079, Lord's Oregon Laws, to be made by publication or by personal service outside of the state.
- S. B. No. 305, by committee on judiciary. Relative to the terms of county court of Hood River county.
- S. B. No. 307, by Eddy. To amend section 971, Lord's Oregon Laws, making Lincoln's birthday a non-judicial holiday.
- S. B. No. 308, by senate committee on insurance. Defining marine insurance.
- S. J. R. No. 25, by Steiwer and Shanks. Regulating number of bills that may be introduced in both houses, and submitting same to the people at the next general election.
- Bills indefinitely postponed by the house were:
 - H. B. No. 37, by Mueller. Compelling employees to deduct amount of tax levy from wages of alien employees.
 - H. B. No. 80, by Jones of Lane. Making it a misdemeanor to become the father of a child born out of wedlock and providing for care and maintenance of illegitimate children.
 - H. B. No. 53, by Lewis. Empowering county assessors to summon property owners before magistrate for examination as to correctness of his assessment returns.
 - H. B. No. 313, by Multnomah county delegation. Designating points in Multnomah county at which public ferries may be operated.
 - S. B. No. 82, by Smith. Directing tax collector to forward delinquent taxes in current rolls, and amending section 1 of chapter 288 of general laws, 1915.
 - H. B. No. 568, appropriating money for the keeping of horses belonging to Oregon cavalry troop at Clackamas.
 - H. B. No. 507, appropriating \$86 for payment to William M. Meier, for cow killed by gunfire during target practice of Company M, at Finzer rifle range.
 - S. B. No. 124, creating state time board, etc.
 - S. B. No. 298, providing that certified bonds secured by mortgages upon ships shall be legal investments for trust funds.
 - S. B. No. 163, to prevent conspiracy in filing of public contracts.
 - H. B. No. 566, failed to pass the house.

WOMEN TOO AMBITIOUS

Excessive ambition leads all sorts of women to exert themselves beyond their strength. The girl striving for honors in school, the busy housewife, the shop girl, the society climber or leader, all overtax their natural powers of endurance. Then come nervous troubles, headaches, headaches, frequently organic troubles, which reduce them almost to despair.

Women suffering thus should first recognize the necessity of putting on the brakes and slowing down. Besides this, to remedy the mischief already done to their health, the best reliance is upon that famous and standard medicine for women's ailments, Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

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AN UNFORSEEN ILLNESS

gately. So I did not insist. Zona wrote gay little notes each day from which breathed the very spirit of happiness. They were having a wonderful time; and sent love to everybody on the place—including the horses and dogs.

I couldn't help comparing Zona's happy honeymoon with my own. I remembered vividly how I used to shut myself in my state room on the big ship and cry for hours because I couldn't please Clifford, while he entertained himself in the smoking room. Then when he saw me, cry again because he found fault with my tears.

All the bitterness of that time came poignantly as I made the comparison. All my girlish ideals had been taken from me on that trip—at the very commencement of my married life.

But it soon became impossible to think of anything save mother. One morning when she tried to get up she faintered. We revived her with difficulty, and then in spite of her objections I sent for Doctor Howard. He came immediately, and remained some time with her. He looked very grave when he left the room and quietly motioned me to follow him.

Doctor Howard Explains Mrs. Sutton's Condition.

"It is fortunate that you are at home, Mildred," he said to me "your mother is in a very weak condition, and will require very careful nursing."

"You don't think, doctor"—I couldn't put the dreadful thought into words.

"I hope she will entirely recover, but she has been very frail since your father passed away, and lately has seemed weaker. She may get around again, but I am afraid for her. Did you know that she came to see me several weeks ago of her own volition, and that what I told her caused her to hurry Zona's wedding?"

"No, she never mentioned seeing you, nor did she complain of feeling ill," I replied.

"I thought not! Her heart is very weak, and she must have the best of care. I'm sorry Mandy's arm isn't all right. She used to be the best nurse in the country."

"I'm yif, doctor," Mandy exclaimed. She had used the privilege of an old house servant and followed us to listen to what the doctor said about mother. "I'll take care ole Misis, 'dee I will, doctor."

"Why Mandy where did you come from?" I asked just as the doctor questioned.

"You thank you can?"

"I know I kin!" she told the doctor. Then, "I seen you and the ole doe come in here Missy Mildred and I jes mistrusted I'd jes lak to hear what you all was a sayin'!"

(Tomorrow—A Very Able Aid.)