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Editor and Publisher

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## DELINQUENT TAX PUBLICATION.

The Eugene Daily Register has an excellent editorial on the publication of the delinquent tax list. It is a pertinent question now because C. S. Jackson, publisher of the Portland Journal, has initiated a bill to repeal the law authorizing publication of the delinquent taxes, and another fixing rates for the publication of legal notices in the state, outside of Portland, where Mr. Jackson's paper is published. It is presumed that these measures were initiated by the Portland publisher to "get even" with the country editors for opposing the "single tax" bills which have appeared on the ballot from time to time, Jackson being the leading single tax advocate in Oregon.

Others believe that a ring of court house claims speculators and delinquent tax title speculators put up the money necessary to initiate the two bills and there seems to be some foundation for this view, since these men have for years maintained a lobby at the legislative sessions seeking to repeal the delinquent tax publication law because it hurt their business.

Anyway, Jackson has initiated these spite bills, or is doing the work of a crowd of speculators—it makes no particular difference which—and the voters of the state must pass upon them. The Register in its excellent editorial states that:

The people of Oregon will be asked to say next month whether publication of the delinquent tax list shall be discontinued, and if they give a proper amount of time to study the subject and then vote their convictions intelligently there ought to be no complaint with their verdict—for it will be final. But the voters owe it to themselves and to the proper collection of the taxes to know exactly what they are voting on before they express an opinion at the polls.

First of all, it might be well to state that publication of the delinquent tax list is not charged to the general tax payer; its cost is assessed against the delinquent property and is paid by the delinquent himself. It is argued that it is unjust to saddle this cost upon the man who is unable to pay his taxes, but it might be argued as logically that it is unjust to assess the cost of litigation to the man who does not pay his debts until he is sued.

Another mistaken idea that ought to be corrected is that publication of the delinquent tax list is solely for the purpose of notifying the delinquent that he has not paid his taxes. That is not the case at all. Under the Oregon law, delinquents are notified by mail and those who come in and pay in response to this notice are stricken from the delinquent list before it is published. Publication of the list is not intended primarily as notice to the delinquent himself. It is, as a matter of fact, a public notice that taxes on the advertised property have become delinquent and that anyone who chooses may come in and pay them and thus acquire a lien on the property.

Anyone who chooses, and—mark this—who knows that the taxes have not been paid, may come in and pay them and obtain a certificate that is a lien on the delinquent property. If this lien is not satisfied within a certain time the property may be taken by the man who holds the lien. If it is satisfied, the man who holds the lien must be paid 12 per cent interest on the money he has advanced to pay the taxes. It is apparent that tax certificates are quite desirable possessions. They are guaranteed by the full value of the property that is delinquent and they draw 12 per cent interest. Guaranteed 12 per cent loans are rather scarce.

Publication of the delinquent tax list is notice to all that the taxes on certain property are delinquent and that anyone who chooses may come in and pay them and obtain tax certificates that are a lien on the property. Where the list is not published this information is available, as a general rule only to a chosen few, and it is a matter of common knowledge that in states where the delinquent list is not published the tax title shark is a permanent fixture.

To sum up, the cost of publishing the delinquent list is borne by those who do not pay their taxes promptly and not by the general body of taxpayers. Notice is given the delinquent by mail so that he can come in and pay up and save the cost of publication. Publication of the list is open notification to the public of the property on which tax certificates—or tax liens—may be had. It is additional and effective notice to the delinquent himself, in case he has failed to receive notice by mail—and in states where tax title sharks flourish it seems to be easy for mail notices to go astray. Moreover, it is an incentive to prompt payment of taxes, for no man likes to have his name go into the delinquent list. Publication of the delinquent list is a measure of sound public policy.

It is barely possible that Kaiser Bill will have the good judgment to abdicate while the abdicating is good.

## THE CRISIS OF A GREAT BATTLE.

Possibly in the next two weeks we shall begin to see the real results of the offensive the allied forces have been waging for over two months. The German armies are being handled by skilled leaders, or disaster would have overtaken them before this. True they have had great losses, conservatively estimated at a million in killed, wounded and prisoners since July 15th, but there has been no real rout. These losses are no more than could be expected in such a long continued struggle when millions of men are engaged.

Marshal Foch has in some measure been responsible for the ability of the Germans to give way steadily without breaking their front and inviting disaster. He has evidently from the first moved cautiously, avoiding costly errors and conserving his reserves. Gradually he has worked the enemy out of their strongest defenses and now he may utilize a large part of these reserves in striking a blow that may be far-reaching in its results. He knows now that the German power of offensive is gone for all time to come. Ludendorff or Hindenburg, which ever is really in command, started the March offensive with about 2,500,000 men on the battle line. Half of these are out of the war for good probably, but re-inforcements have been drawn from every possible quarter to partially fill the depleted ranks. Probably all his available man-power has been called out—and the allied armies still push him backward. He has no reserves, with which to stage an offensive of more than local character, if at all.

Foch may be expected to strike hard at vulnerable parts of the weakened line and then we may see the real results of his campaign which begun with the stroke south of the Marne in July.

The German leaders are playing the war game skillfully but they are facing a victorious enemy, numerically stronger, and all their skill may not avail them in attempting to save the great army which they would like to see posted firmly behind their own border defenses. Their task is the more difficult since they are opposed by a master strategist like Ferdinand Foch.

Senator Chamberlain and Former President Roosevelt were positive only a few weeks ago that we had no air-planes across the ocean. However, since 350 American machines participated in the biggest air raid ever pulled off by any of the allies a few days ago, George and Teddy were probably only keeping up their records for giving the public the wrong steer in order to get a little cheap notoriety.

The republican politicians of Marion county purpose to call off that adjournment of politics long enough to take the scalp off Alex LaFollette, who failed to ask their permission to run for state senator but butted into the race on his own account.

What's the use of printing war maps in the papers? The lines change so fast that the noon edition is ancient history when the evening paper comes out. Those Hindenburg veterans are making new sprinting records every day.

Some of the Yankee boys write back from German prison camps that they are well treated. The reason for this probably lies in the fact that they have 1400 of our soldiers in captivity and we had about 75,000 of their when the last returns were compiled.

The kaiser has caused his brother-in-law to be elected king of Finland, and has several other relatives slated for European crowns. In this connection it will be remembered that Napoleon took care of members of his family before he was hopelessly defeated in Belgium.

Withycomb's administration will go down in history for the deficiencies it has created. Already the emergency board has authorized the expenditure of over \$500,000 more than there is in the treasury—and the end is not yet.

Big financiers will tell you that it isn't so much how much you owe as what you have back of your debts. The United States of America is back of the Liberty Loan bonds.

The Corvallis Gazette-Times is very much opposed to any pre-election campaign—unless the democrats keep entirely out of it.

Even if our aircraft program has fallen down as its critics assert, the German aviators will testify that few of our flyers have.

## THE WIFE

By JANE PHELPS

HACKETT! He deserved it.  
"No indeed!" Ruth braced herself for the ordeal. "Brian and I never give each other what you call 'a talking to' do we, Brian?"  
"Not so you could notice it," he replied with a sort of a twisted smile.  
"He always was a lucky dog. Before he married you he always carried off all the pretty girls and left the rest of us moping. Now he's got a wife who lets him go right on having a good

## Open Forum

Salem, Or., Oct. 12, 1918.  
Editor of the Journal: Dear Sir—  
Kindly give a little space in your open forum to state what in my opinion should be the answer of the masses, to Germany's last peace note.

What our Answer Should Be  
Imperial Chancellor: Sir—We have the privilege to acknowledge receipt of your note of the 9th inst., in which the imperial government has asked the government of the United States to enter into peace negotiations, also to approach our associates on the question of an armistice.

In view of recent events, the government of the United States views such a move as impossible.  
The imperial chancellor has declared in his message that the government of Germany has changed its policy—in what way, we are at a loss to understand, as the truth of your statement is shattered in the smoking ruins of French and Belgian cities, and your voice is drowned by the roar of guns that are shelling the lifeboats of a torpedoed steamer.

Therefore, the government of the United States and its associates have resolved that:

1. Until the organized outlaws of the imperial government shall have ceased to wantonly destroy, burn and pillage invaded territory.
2. Until the Prussian herds shall have ceased to starve, enslave, rape and slay the helpless victims of war's awful havoc.
3. Until Prussian vultures shall have ceased to bomb hospitals, and turn ma-

time and doesn't nag him. For good measure she told me: 'Are there any more at home like you?'

Ruth laughed, she couldn't help it. Claude Beckley was the most ridiculous creature she ever had met.

"I am the one and only," she returned.

"Then what am I to do?" his mock serious tone made her laugh again. That she was a bit hysterical did not escape Brian. He was sulking now.

"Come, Ruth, let's go home!" he said after a moment. "We've spent all our money, there's no use staying here any longer."

"Oh, don't be a grouch. Sit and smoke awhile," Beckley said, helping himself to another cigarette.

"Yes, do!" Ruth added. "The music is delightful," she really dreaded being alone with Brian; then, too, down deep in her heart that she might learn more of Brian and Mollie from Beckley—although she would have hesitated to acknowledge it.

"Oh, very well," Brian sank back in his chair.  
"Can't you keep him away?" Beckley asked Ruth.

"From what?"  
"From Mollie. She looked with favor on me a while back. Now she scorns me. A jug of red ink and an Italian table de hote and no longer tempt her. Brian has spoiled her for the simple life. It is a shame that one man should have so much, and the rest of us nothing. Don't you think so?"

"I think you are talking like an ass!" Brian interrupted. "Ruth isn't used to your nonsense, Beckley. Cut it out!"

"You don't think me silly do you, fair lady?" Beckley asked, paying no slightest attention to Brian's angry looks.

"You couldn't expect me to say 'yes' to that question, could you?" Ruth parried for an answer. She was beginning to enjoy herself.

"Oh, come, Hackett! I'm not as black as he is painting me, Mrs. Hackett," he turned to Ruth. "I'm sore at him, that's all. I've always had reason enough to be so; and since I met you the reason has grown immeasurably."

"I am sure you are a flatterer."  
"Nothing like that! I always tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth."  
"Of course you do!" his time Brian sneered.

"To change the subject," Beckley was imperturbable, "will you and Mrs. Hackett take dinner with me tomorrow night? Not at some million dollar joint, but down in the village. Bare tables and paper napkins, Mrs. Hackett, but absolutely clean; and also with the dinner there will be given free, a 'feast of reason and a flow of soul,' impossible to find in a place like this," with an indescribable gesture, he dismissed the roof garden as though it were unworthy his presence.

"Shall we, Brian?" Ruth looked at her husband for acceptance of the invitation. "You haven't any engagement have you?"

"No," Brian was surprised that Ruth wanted to go. Could it be possible she was attracted by Claude Beckley in spite of what she had said and that she WANTED to be with him? His jealous nature inflamed by the thought, Ruth was so still, so smart-looking, no wonder a boob like Beckley would want to make love to her. Well, he needn't try that on, it wouldn't work.

"Then we'll accept with pleasure," Ruth said. She would take this opportunity of seeing the kind of places and people Brian knew before she married him. "What time shall you want us?"

"About seven. I'll go early and save a talk. Brian knows the way."  
A few moments afterward they had Beckley good-night and left the garden. They took a bus, which (fortunately, Ruth thought) was so crowded they could not sit together.

Had a woman ever spent such an evening? He wondered as she sank down into the seat beside an old man.

Monday—Claude Beckley Arranges a Surprise For Ruth And Brian.

## Rippling Rhymes

by Walt Mason

### THE SUNNY SIDE OF THE STREET.

It is easy to have a smile for the sorrows of others, the pessimist will say, but our own sorrows are not so easily gotten rid of. Well, that is not true. Our own sorrows are chiefly of yesterday and tomorrow. We borrow them mostly of imagination and fear. Real troubles are easily borne; it is the imaginary ones that are intolerable. A walk on the sunny side of the street will dispel the delusion.

True, life has its real tragedies and its pains from which there is no escape. When death takes those we love, or when disease seizes us, or misfortune apportion us a pinched face and laborious old age, no maxims about the sunny side of the street will cause the sun to shine. But it is still true that happiness and discontent are in the main a state of the mind. Nine-tenths of the little ills and worries would disappear if the will were resolutely set against them. Actual afflictions we learn to bear. The crippled, the hopelessly diseased and the poor have, since time began, taught us our best lessons in patience and cheerfulness.

But unhappiness that comes of absorption in self fills the world with doleful moaning. It is the gloom of self-absorption that darkens our side of the street. We can get out of it if we will. The natural life is the life that carries sunshine with it wherever it is.

chinese guns on helpless wounded, and women.

4. Until the Prussian pirates shall have ceased to sink the ships of un-offending nations, and to shell the life boats of the submarine's victims.

5. Until the people of Germany shall have risen up as one man and decried the awful crimes of those servants of hell, and as a guarantee of good faith shall have surrendered unconditionally, all the armed forces on land, on the sea and in the air—then—and not till then, will the government of the United States and its associates entertain for a moment, any plea for peace whatsoever.

The government of the United States and its associates await the pleasure of your acceptance of their terms.

(Signed) Loyal citizens of—America, France, England, Italy.  
Written by a lover of Justice.

## AMERICAN TROOPS

Continued from page one

loss of life was ascribed to loss of the wireless apparatus on both ships shortly afterward. The Mousley also lost her wireless. The Kashmir reached port in a badly damaged condition.

An official admiralty statement issued last night declared the Mousley took off 395 men, members of the crew and soldiers, and that 16 survivors had reached Islay. This statement placed the missing at 431. Late estimates, believed to have been high, declared 300 would be the number of dead, while conservatives said it would be below 150.

The Otranto was a steel steamer of 12,124 tons built in 1909 and was owned by the Orient Steam Navigation company. She was registered at Belfast.

The Kashmir is a steel steamer of 8841 tons, built in 1915 and owned by the Peninsular and Oriental company. She is registered at Greenock.



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