PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY J. HARVEY BACKUS & SON

OUR KEYNOTE:
"If There is Not a Way, Cut a Way."

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### OIL IN CAMPAIGNS

WILL H. Hays, former chairman of the republican national committee, testified in the senate oil investigation that Harry F. Sinclair, holder of the Teapet Dome oil lease, contributed \$75,000 to help wipe pot Dome oil lease, contributed \$75,000 to help out a deficit in the 1920 republican campaign

A member of the senate committee made it a matter of record that E. L. Doheny, holder of government oil leases in California, contributed \$75,000 to the democratic campaign fund of 1920.

Thus it appears that both of the major political parties are in the same boat insofar as oil money is pageagned.

Perhaps they are not so much to be condemned for accepting oil magnates' money as they are for carrying on the type of campaigns they do.

Everyone knows that campaigns such as are waged in presidential years cost large sums of money. Likewise, everyone knows that money does not grow on trees and that it has to come from wealthy

Whether these men contributed such immense Whether these men contributed such immense nums of money thru pure love of party, or because they expected to be rewarded after the election, is not a hard question to decide.

The evidence is that both have government oil leases, tho the process thru which they got them may have all of the aspects of legality. The problem that confronts the American people is how to rid both parties of designing men who

The problem that controls the interest of designing men who is how to rid both parties of designing men who is how to rampaign funds with the idea of receiving in larger measure than they contribute.

much larget measure than they contribute:
But it is doubtful if either party will be free of
such men so long as presidential campaigns are conducted on such an elaborate scale as they are now

when we come to that happy time when neither political party will try to outdo the other in spending money, to elect its candidates to office, we will be rid of such scandidates in public life as are being reveal-

### BRAZEN EFFRONTERY

ROVER Cleveland Bergdoll, arch draft evader, had the effrontery to suggest to the Berlin correspondent of American press association, when approached on the question of his return to the United States, that he was open to anything reasonable along that line.

that he was open to anything reasonable along that line.

The insinuation that the American government might even negotiate with Bergdoll is an insult, in the light of his attitude during and since the war. After the dispatch containing Bergdoll's statement, appeared in American newspapers, the word came out from Washington that the state department had pledged its support to the American Legion in its effort to have Bergdoll returned to his native—land and tried for violation of the draft law.

The American people will be prone to forget animosities growing out of the war, but they will not soon forget the disgraceful page written by the millionaire Philadelphia draft dodger.

He is as deserving of punishment as any other man who violated the terms of the conscription—seffend the presumption that the government would steep to discuss 'terms' with him is brazen and shameless impudence.

Nothing but unconditional surrender for Bergdol or he remains an exile.

### BE FAIR TO THE BOYS

out of school and putting them to work in the fields will soon begin in the farm home. The father is very busy. Plowing and planting must be done on time. It is hard to hire men that can be trusted with the machinery or the horses. Hired men mean more work—in the kitchen for the mother and daughters. The school may not be interesting. The boys are dependable, like to be out of doors, and are proud to take a man's place and help with the work. That is the easy, lazy way of looking at it and the boy gives up his spring school term and becomes a rural child laborer. If that occurs two or three years in succession he has lost his chance for an education.

The stronger, better way is to sacrifice something of present comfort and expediency for the child's future welfare. By his work this spring or next spring the boy may save to the family two or three dollars a day for a few weeks but he does it at a very great loss to himself and probably to his people. He is giving up the time that should be used to deepen, broaden, and refine his life. Resides that if he does in the stronger had be used to deepen, broaden, and refine his life. Resides that if he does. THE usual spring argument about taking the

great loss to himself and probably to his people. He is giving up the time that should be used to deepen, broaden, and refine his life. Besides that, if he does not get proper schooling and enough of it now, he will not be able to earn as much as he ought when he becomes a man. Then he, too, will feel that his children must give up their chances for an education and spend their childhood days at home at some kind of labor. That may be the way to bring the entire family to a finer plane of life.

### PASSING IT ON

WAGE earner-one of apparently very moderate A WAGE earner—one of apparently very mouerace income—wrote to a Congressman urging reduction of the high surtax rates of the present income tax law. The Congressman replied with a very caustic letter acking the wage earner what interest he had in the reduction of the high surtax rates since his income must be so small as not to be affected by the

The question seems plausible on its face and yet one who stops to consider the matter for more than minute will readily understand that the wage

earner knew what he was talking about and the

As a matter of fact the small wage As a matter of fact the selection of the income tax at all interested in the reduction of the income tax directed on small income for he pays no income tax directly. His income in most instances is so small as rectly. reetly. His income in most instances is so small as dot to exceed his exemptions. But the small wage sarner pays indirectly the high surtax rates on large incomes. The manufacturer, the professional man, the corporation operating large transportation or public service concerns, pays a heavy income tax and adds that tax to the cost of doing business and necessity that cost is included in the prices charged for ands that tax to the coat or doing publices and neces-arily that cost is included in the prices charged for goods or services. The consumer or the patron pays

the tax in the end.

That is a fact that no one will question when he analyzes the effect of taxation, and yet it is a fact hat a great many people overlook.

### TAX EXEMPT SECURITIES

STROKE of lightning is said to follow the line of A STROKE of lightning is sain to indicate the following that line, he may not be alive when the lightning gets thru with him.

ning gets thru with him.

It is a law of economics that money follows the line of least resistance; and since tax-exempt securicies furnish that line, money flows into this channel. Collecting interest on bonds requires about as ittle energy as "turming over in bed," when one gets 'irred of a fixed position. It would be a fine pastime for the Patagonians who are said to sleep eighteen hours with a tendency to twenty-four out of every lay. This manner of getting a living gives abundance of time for the study of all the rules of etiquette, but it does not fulfill that law of the New Testament which says: "If a man work not neither shall he eat." Collecting interest on bonds has been known to contribute toward that welling up in the human breast known as particism; while, on the other hand, it is too difficult to understand that if too many persons get their beef and potatoes in this manner, more hours of labor—or greater ingenuity—will be required on the part of those who produce the beef and potatoes. It is a law of economics that money follows the

Just now there is strong sentiment in favor of axing bonds that up to the present time have been known as "tax-exempt securities." This seems to be he only way to get at the difficulty; because the gray matter of the brain balks when it tries to delve deeper into the subject. In the light of a very difficult dituation, and with public bankruptey "just around the sorner," we have concluded that the only way to "put on the brake" is to tax these securities.

Time deposits in banks bring four per cent. and re taxable. This new move would place the public bond and private time deposits on "an equal footing before the law;" and in doing so, public and private interprise would stand on an equal financial basis.

With no favoritism shown between public and private enterprise, time deposits in bank would undoubtly increase and, if Stock Exchange did not sniff the rich ozones of these deposits, as in years gone by bustill in manney. Just now there is strong sentiment in favor of

ozones of these deposits, as in years gone by but in memory—with the increase in time deposits, still in memory—with the increase in time deposits, industry would feel the pulse of rich arterial blood in

If a man holds bonds drawing interest in amoun equal to the amount of his taxes he is in posession of that regulating power which, is carefully guarded in a community would insure safety and prosperity to the community. Hence, it is highly advisable that a township, county, corporation, or even a state know precisely who furnishes the funds to buy its bonds; else these same bonds that were intended for the public good, form a rope to hang it to the limb of finap ical distress. Just as a mortgage note on a farm-under changed conditions from those under which the loan was extended—may come to look not quite so good as an up-to-date farm in a high state of fertility; even so, a "community" may look better than a "bond" to a blood-sucker with a greedy eye and a European son-in-law.

European son-in-law.

"But," says some one, "it is impossible for road and school bonds to be held locally. The township nor even the county has the money required for local improvements.". Why has not the local unit the money for both public and private improvements? It has not the money required for one of two reasons: Either's t's going two fast and learning the spendthrift habit, or it is not gaining what it has rightfully earned for the things it has raised and manufactured. If the first of these is true, then retrenchment is necessary, if the latter, then the next way out is "co-operative marketing." Individuals and communities yearn for the things that make life ideal; but they do not ve marketing." Individuals and communities year or the things that make life ideal; but they do no ish to be sold out at sheriff's sale in order to acquir

THE world is full of flattery, but it is not all the same brand. There is the kind that is downright dishonesty, by the use of which one seeks to better his own fortunes and his own position at the expense

his own fortunes and his own position at the expense of others. The fake stock salesman is a good example of the users of this brand.

Then there is the gentle, persuasive, life-oiling kind in common use by nearly everyone, who is successful in any pursuit, the purveyor of which seeks to gain his ends without injury to others by means of subtle flattery or merited praise of others.

This latter kind is dispensed by the woman who has the reputation of being a "delighted hostess," by the man who is said to have a "winning personality," and by another who is known as a "good salesman."

The distributor of gentle and polite flattery is a

and by another who is known as a "good salesman."

The distributor of gentle and polite flattery is a bright and shining star in a clouded sky, a small candle always busy brightening up the corner where he is. Men seek his favor and women hang upon his words, not untruthful and always appealing to the innate egotism that exists in everyone of us.

Without the flattery spreader, no party would be a success, a banquet would be a funeral feast and realities would be reported.

politics would be robbed of all its savor.

Here's a toast to the peddler of flattery and long may his species be abundant.

A booster is all right, so long as he sticks to his

Too often the self-made man is all self and no

Looks like an early spring, judging by the way secteaning has started in Washington.

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### From War Chariots To Turbine Generators

The history of civilization is essentially a history of man's conquest of sources of power. The first step was the domestication of beasts of burden. Military strength was once based on literal horse-power in cavalry and chariots, as today it is founded on technical horse-power derived from water, coal and oil.

The Niegara Falls Power Company sells electricity at the lowest average price recerved by any generating system on the North American

Falling water is both the oldest and the most upto-date source of power. From the ancient water wheel to the modern turbine generator there is a vast difference in technique but practically none in principle.

The efficient and econon water power resources is one of the most important questions before the people of New York State today. From a fog of controversy one fact stands out clear and unmistakable. The Niagara Falls Power Company and the Niagara, Lockport & Ontario Power Company sell their electricity at the lowest average price received by any generating and trans-mission systems on the North American continent.

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