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FACTS AND PROPAGANDA

By CHARLES V. STANTON

The Bend Bulletin and the Oregon Grange Bulletin have been engaged for considerable time in a heated editorial debate relative to the proposed Columbia Valley Authority, power and flood development projects in the Columbia River valley and general policies of water and land management.

The Oregon Grange Bulletin, largely through the influence, we believe, of the master of the Oregon State Grange, has been a spokesman for CVA interests and a mouthpiece for the Army Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation. The Grange Bulletin has definitely aligned itself with CVA, while joining the Army Engineers' and Bureau of Reclamation's propaganda campaign.

In tangling with the Bend Bulletin, however, the Grange publication has challenged a formidable opponent. Editor Robert W. Sawyer of Bend is recognized as one of the nation's foremost authorities on the subject of reclamation. Former judge of Deschutes County, a former member of the Oregon Highway Commission, past president of the Oregon Reclamation Congress, director of the National Reclamation Congress, and a member of the Oregon State Planning Board, he is one of the best informed men in the nation on subjects of reclamation, land management and water management.

Editor Sawyer recently published the following excerpt from the Oregon Grange Bulletin:

Of a certainty, the flood was a "peg" upon which to hang an argument for a CVA. As to it being "emotional" as opposed to "logical," we will leave that to be answered by those who had their farms and homes destroyed and damaged by waters which could have been held in check by dams at Hell's Canyon, Hungry Horse, Glacier View, Paradise and Albeni Falls—dams which are not now built because we do not have a CVA. And we do not have a CVA because of the opposition of the private power companies and publications like the Oregonian and the Bend Bulletin, which serve as their stooges.

Commenting on the paragraph printed above, the Bend Bulletin replies:

These paragraphs and those that follow in the Grange Bulletin provide a typical example of that paper's method of argument and discussion. Long experience has taught us that the Grange Bulletin will not engage in clean debate. It prefers to call names and to draw conclusions from something other than facts. Nevertheless it seems to us desirable not to let this editorial go without comment and so we proceed.

To call publications like the Oregonian and the Bulletin stooges of the private power companies proves nothing so far as flood control is concerned. As a matter of fact we doubt if the Grange editor knows the meaning of the word but, that point aside, he might call such publications a dozen names and still make no contribution to the flood control problem. All that his name calling does is to suggest that this sort of thing rather than clean discussion is what he believes will have the greatest weight with his audience—that is, his subscribers. We have a higher regard for the farmers of Oregon who belong to the Grange. So let's pay no more attention to this language.

Editor Sawyer continues in his editorial to direct his argument directly to the issues of flood control. We believe, however, something more should be said about the statements appearing in the Grange Bulletin. The Grange publication goes into the hands of a great many people—principally farmers. Because it is a mouthpiece for their organization, they have high regard for it. The editors of the Grange Bulletin should recognize their responsibility to give their readers carefully analyzed facts. Instead they stoop to the lowest type of propaganda.

Before any pressure group can achieve its ends it must destroy confidence in the press. So the editors of the Grange Bulletin endeavor to convince their readers that two of Oregon's finest newspapers are "stooges" for private interests, thus following the propaganda policies brought to their highest art by the New Deal. They present no argument, as such, except the emotional appeal that homes were destroyed because we have no CVA. They then list the names of proposed POWER dams and cite them as being necessary to FLOOD CONTROL.

Thus the editors of the Grange Bulletin, either through ignorance or design—and if the latter they are abusing their editorial responsibility—are misinforming their readers and are feeding them the propaganda which is enabling the Army Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation to continue their destruction of our resources.

People should be made to understand that a POWER dam does NOT control floods. To control floods we must have many huge reservoirs kept EMPTY except during periods of flood runoff. Each of these reservoirs will destroy usefulness of thousands upon thousands of acres of land, because of fluctuation of water level from zero to capacity. Power dam reservoirs must be kept FULL and thus have little capacity to store or restrain flood waters.

Federal agencies want to build power dams. They meet resistance in Congress from private power advocates. So they endeavor to cause the public to believe that their dams are for purposes of flood control and irrigation. The public then puts pressure on Congress for appropriations. We do not object to construction of power dams and the expansion of our hydroelectric resource. We DO object to promoting this project through misinformation, and more particularly to the spreading of propaganda through a publication holding the responsibility which devolves upon such an institution as the Oregon Grange Bulletin.

OUT OUR WAY

By J. R. Williams



Scrap from the MENDING BASKET

By Viahnett S. Martin

Our road is on a shelf above the creek, coming up from "90" through a pretty, fir-lined canyon. In the three-quarters of a mile below us there have been twelve accidents in a little over a year, all because there are two places in it where there is no way to see around a sharp bend.

Two involved log trucks; in the latest, two cars met here just as a boy on a bicycle got there, too. The boy plunged over the bank to avoid being hit. All of the accidents have been duly reported to the proper authorities who are, without a doubt, doing the best they can to remedy the matter. The latest word is that the "shovel" will be sent here as soon as it finishes its present job. We who live on this road hope that will be soon!

It's really wonderful that Oregon roads are as good as they are, for the roadmen have every sort of handicap to meet, and plenty of rain besides.

One soon becomes accustomed to the twisting curves, and enjoys the visitors' reactions. I read the other days where some Texans "gave up" and let someone else drive them out of Oregon. The Texans who visited us recently were from the Rio Grande Valley, where we went two years ago. A greater contrast I can't imagine. Give me Oregon!

The rushing white water of the rivers charmed our visitors, and they delighted in the many cascades. They had heard much about the Columbia River flood, and were surprised to find they could actually drive along the highway that follows its course into the Cascades. The things they had heard!

The flood was bad enough without any exaggeration to discourage visitors from coming to Oregon! I just can't understand how rumors such as they had heard can race over the country; there is enough in the day's news in these days of incredible inventions and marvelous feats of accomplishment, and for that matter, enough in the exact descriptions of our major disasters to satisfy even readers who like lurid and startling items.

Well, the stories that went over the radio and through the press wires about the Long Beach earthquake were astonishing to recipients of the clippings sent back to Long Beach. I didn't see the Oregon flood — but I'll take the earthquake.

about what OUGHT to be done for the country's good. "OK," he told them, in effect. "The steering wheel is yours. Go ahead and drive the car your way." (That was really hitting below the belt, because everybody knows platform talk isn't expected to be taken seriously any more. It's just put out to sound good.)

BUT no sooner had congress got into session than this "spy ring" business broke all over the place. About all we can be sure of in connection with it is that a lot of high, wide and handsome perjury is being indulged in, but as yet it isn't clear who is doing the perjuring.

THE POLITICAL development is that the impression is growing that President Truman is HOLDING BACK THE FACTS. As a result, his special session strategy has blown up in his face.

THE incident gets into high diplomacy. In Moscow, our ambassador is called on the carpet by Molotov, who claims that American authorities "connived" in the KIDNAPING of this teacher and another one (whose name is Samarine). In the well-known Molotov manner, he conveys the idea that he'll will be to pay if we don't do something about it, and QUICK.

spare a dime?" Two of the girls of the family tend till.

As a matter of fact, the Red Cross has spent \$2,000,000 of monies voluntarily contributed by the people in 12 disaster emergencies in the Columbia area. Many government agencies are spending many additional millions in relief and rehabilitation work in addition to funds paid veterans under the GI bill of rights. But the government cannot provide everything and the hearty co-operation of the flood victims themselves is a necessity. They must exercise their own initiative and resourcefulness. Demoralizing doles is no solution of their problems, nor are marches on the capitol.

TEN MEASURES FOR BALLOT

(Portland Oregonian)
Oregon voters will find ten measures this year on the general election ballot. They will approve or reject: Modification of the 6 per cent tax limitation; authority to use state credit for reforestation; establishment of a boys' camp; a phase of public acquisition of hydroelectric projects; removal of property qualification for voting in school elections; an increase in old-age pensions; an increase in personal income tax exemptions; a liberalizing of the Knox liquor law; a veterans' bonus and a prohibition of fixed gear in Columbia river salmon fishing.

Submission of measures has got down to a normalcy in numbers in recent years. In the last four general elections the number ranged from seven to nine. In the early days of enthusiasm over direct legislation we had in one election thirty-seven measures on the ballot.

The record of the system indicates that pretty generally the sponsors of measures need be less hopeful of their approval in a presidential election year than in other years. Presumably a considerable element feels annoyed by them at a time when interest and enthusiasms are centered on national candidates and national issues. They neglect considered judgment of bills and amendments, and are prone to cast a resentful "no."

In 1928 they turned down the entire list of eight measures; in 1932 approved only five out of thirteen submitted; in 1936 they rejected all eight that were presented; they turned down all nine in 1940. The presidential year of 1944 was rather an exception, for they approved six out of nine that were offered.

The conflict between general interest in partisan phases of an election and the pressure of legislative matters was illustrated in the May primary, when a critically needed tax levy for county purposes was rejected, only to be approved at a latter special election when its merit could be better presented and heard.

There is no intent herein to deplore submission of the ten measures, but only to present the thought that in adopting direct legislation we accepted an obligation to make it work to the best of our ability.

KEEP OREGON GREEN

Oregon City Enterprise
Charles Ogle who did a splendid work in promoting the Keep Oregon Green movement has been named as executive secretary of the association to become manager of the Associated Forest Industries of Oregon, with headquarters in Salem. He has been succeeded in the Keep Oregon Green Association by Albert Weisendanger, a veteran forest ranger who has been district ranger for the Columbia Gorge and retired June 30 after 39 years of continuous service.

LETTERS to the Editor

Clean Campaign in Hospital Project Urged

ROSEBURG—I have followed with some interest the Community Hospital fund drive, and have seen various pieces in this paper promoting this drive (submitted by the committee in charge of the drive).

I realize as much as anyone that additional facilities are needed in the community, BUT I take exception to the things that have been said AND inferred about the existing facilities.

It has been said that the Sisters of Mercy have not expanded in keeping with the times. Do you think for one minute that they haven't been aware of the crying need for added rooms and conveniences? Who are in a better position to know that than they? Aren't they in constant everyday contact with this situation? Haven't they had plans and great hopes in having a new hospital? Just ask them! Then the community repays them for the years of work and humble service by telling them they have an old fire-trap of a building, and inferring that they literally set patients out into the streets to make room for another patient newly committed to the bed.

I may be wrong, but every time I have ever been in a hospital I didn't get out until my doctor released me, no matter if I felt that I was ready to go home. It seems to me I have read that medical science has discovered that patients recover more quickly and thoroughly, if they are up and about before their muscles become flaccid from disuse. There are, of course, exceptions to the above, but not being a medical man I wouldn't know.

It doesn't appear to me that the blame for lack of cooperation has been fairly placed in its entirety. The Sisters are not putting on a big publicity stunt and concentrated drive for funds, nor are they entering into any maligning or mud-slinging campaign. They will go on about their mission in life—that of unselfish service in humanitarianism—content to know they have served faithfully and well.

I say: Let's keep this campaign clean!

R. B. WANDLING,
Roseburg, Ore.

The Weather

U. S. Weather Bureau Office
Roseburg, Oregon.
Forecast for Roseburg and vicinity: Generally fair and slightly warmer today and Tuesday.
Highest temp. any Aug. 106
Lowest temp. any Aug. 39
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Lowest temp. last night 50
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Precipitation from Aug. 1 . . . 10
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HARRY H. KRUG
Principal

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