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AN EXCELLENT REPORT

By CHARLES V. STANTON

During the course of a year we have occasion to examine many reports. State and Federal agencies print voluminous detailed accounts of their activities, finances, etc., usually in dry, statistical form, which, after hurried scanning for general content, customarily are "filed" in the nearest wastebasket. There recently, however, has come to our desk a unique report. It is a cross between a "whodunit" thriller, a chamber of commerce booster booklet, an advertising brochure, an art catalogue and an engineering narrative. If more reports were prepared on this pattern they would get more reading.

The report is issued by the Legislative Interim Committee studying the state highway system. It is deserving of high commendation.

The Committee was named by the last Legislature to direct a study of Oregon's highway system, learn the needs and make recommendations for construction and financing.

The Committee, headed by State Representative Ralph T. Moore, and including Senators Ernest R. Fatland, Douglas McKay, W. W. Baldersee and Representatives R. C. Frisbie, M. M. Landon and Pat Lonegran, brought in a firm of engineers to conduct technical studies. Every city and county was invited to contribute to the study, outlining its own current and anticipated road, street and highway needs and plans. Hearings were held throughout the state where the Committee and its engineers gathered facts and opinions and led discussions of road problems.

We had expected this would be compiled into a long, dry report, filled with technical tables, charts and engineering calculations, baffling the intelligence of the normal reader. Instead, we find the report extremely lucid and fascinating.

The Committee, instead of permitting the report to be compiled by an engineer, employed Robert Ormond Case, one of Oregon's best known writers. Format was turned over to a large advertising concern. Decorative drawings, photographs and art work are used profusely to supplement graphs and charts. Instead of a technical study, the report is one the average layman can read and understand.

The findings and recommendations already have been discussed in the state's press. Further discussion will be given from time to time, so we do not propose to analyze the report. But we guarantee the state legislators, required to study the report as a basis for legislative policy, will find the unique presentation a most pleasurable relief from the other copious and technical volumes that will come to their respective desks.

Another vital report is in the process of preparation. This is the one covering the work of the Interim Committee studying the state's fish and wildlife resources and management policies and practices.

The latter Committee, in our opinion, would do well to study the highway document in its departure from traditional form. Perhaps it is too late to prepare the game report on the same elaborate scale as that used by the Highway Committee. However, the game report will lend itself to interesting narrative form, if placed in the hands of a good writer and if it could be photographically illustrated.

We just imagine the average legislator dislikes as much as most other people the traditional technical report, consisting of long columns of figures, marginal notes, engineering language and complicated charts. He will be much more interested in a compilation couched in everyday language, using narrative form, and illustrated with photographs.

As an example of the difference, take one small feature of the Highway Committee report. The artist has drawn a map, which shows white lines on a red background depicting the state's network of highways. That is the traditional approach, except for color which normally would be black lines on a white background. But in the highway report there is printed in juxtaposition with the formal map, a bas-relief photograph, showing Oregon's mountains and valleys, together with an outline map filled with clusters of tiny dots indicating concentration of population. Immediately the reader is intrigued. He starts fitting the lines into the valleys and mountain passes, superimposes in his mind the population chart and instantly grasps the factors clearly explained in the accompanying narrative.

It is a unique report and an interesting one. The Committee may well be proud of its achievement in inventing a new type of official presentation.

In the Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

the day this is written, there ISN'T A SINGLE ITEM OF FOREIGN NEWS—not even a little one-line-head filler to make the column come out even so the page can be looked up and sent to the waiting stereotype crew.

WHY? You answer it. This writer doesn't feel competent to hazard even a guess.

Maybe we're still so busy analyzing our recent election that the editors of our big papers think we aren't interested in the rest of the world. Maybe the Russians, who joined the pollsters in predicting the inevitability of Dewey's election, were so stunned

by what happened that they have had no time since to cook up any new deviltry.

Anyway, there it is—a whole front page of a major newspaper without a single item of foreign news.

THERE was a little foreign item on an inside page. Molotov let it be known that he's tickled pink over Dewey's defeat. He says:

"The failure of the Republican party and Dewey, who came to the elections with an openly reactionary and openly aggressive platform, shows that the majority of the American people reject that program."

Well, they rejected Wallace, too. The only sure thing about it is that Molotov probably wouldn't have been pleased with anything we were likely to do, but he might not be above PRETENDING he is pleased with the way things turned out.

OUT OUR WAY



Scrap from the MENDING BASKET

By Viahnnett S. Martin

Biographies, in which I always delight, of people who have really accomplished something for us all seem to hit one note consistently: that the pattern for a boy's life is, very often, set by the time he is 12. After that it is a question of moving in a more or less straight line to the inevitable good.

The outstanding biography of them all, that of the boy Jesus, shows that to be true—and all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers. But I had in mind the story of Sir Charles Marston, who at the age of 12, resolved to find out for himself, and prove (or disprove) the truth of the Bible stories he had been hearing. (Which reminds me: in a recent Scrap the accidental striking of a key made it "two small boys who lived to hear the Bible read." I hope other readers laughed as I did; of course, was the intention.)

So when the lad grew up he became an ardent archaeologist. I read his "New Bible Evidences" some years ago, and then, reaching the last page, began at page one and read it all through again. I have this in my quotations: "If all the time wasted on minute dissection of the Bible text, on straining at gnats and swallowing camels, had been

spent in learning to read cuneiform tablets, (is there a young student listening for an idea for a future career?) "there would be a far clearer knowledge of ancient history than is at present the case."

Excavations in Palestine have revealed without any questioning that the Biblical account of the falling of the walls of Jericho, for instance, took place exactly as described. And in that connection, an incident in the Long Beach earthquake made a great impression upon me. When the walls of the Woodrow Wilson playing field fell, the high brick walls all fell outward, not two in the same direction. . . The walls of Jericho also fell outward as excavations show.

Sir Charles' greatest satisfaction was in his proving of the truth of the Biblical history as recorded in the sacred scriptures. Eighty scraps were discovered just outside the walls, and a kind of "calendar" by which dates were checked and found historically accurate. I must be nearly 15 years ago that I read the book: "New Bible Evidences" by Sir Charles Marston, American publisher, Flamington Revell, N. Y. If I am not mistaken it might be interesting reading for an alert, questioning boy. If it catches the interest, the age wouldn't matter.

LETTERS to the Editor

Headline Displeasing To School Instructor

ROSEBURG.—Last Saturday night I was shocked by the headline in the Roseburg News-Review. It read: "Berkner Negro Kills Six, Wounds Six." The cause of inter-group relations is not aided by such irresponsible journalism. That headline invites the reader to think of the killer, not as an individual, but as a member of a particular race. The headline is so worded that the actions of one are made to reflect upon an entire race. The crimes of the white race are not handled in such a fashion.

The Roseburg News-Review is certainly aware that the newspaper is one of the most important agencies in the community in shaping public opinion. Its power for good or evil is thus considerable and must be exercised with a real sense of public responsibility. The News-Review might make amends for its recent action by publicly acknowledging such responsibility and by pledging itself to reporting the news without prejudice.

FRANK SHAW
Instructor, Senior High School,
Roseburg, Ore.

Pension Puzzle Draws Some Pertinent Queries

ROSEBURG.—The reactionaries are making a howl about the old age pension, wondering where the money is to pay the pension. I ask where did the money come from to send to the monarchs of Greece and Turkey; to Italy and China? Italy got in 1947 \$140,000,000 while Italian farmers were actually hoarding her million tons of wheat. At the same time it was voted to give Chiang Kai-Shek's government \$30,000,000 per month. Where did they get this money? Where did the \$700,000,000 for Greece and the Turks come from? What about the billion dollars worth of aid sent to the people of Europe in supplies, machinery? Was that crackpot legislation?

Now our cockeyed politicians

are in a reactionary sweat because the people of Oregon have enacted a very liberal pension law for the old folks. If these reactionary do-nothings were asked to vote a \$20,000 pension for wealthy, retired presidents or congressmen they would enact it into law immediately, with no strings attached. Any senator or representative who is so narrow minded that he cannot handle and meet such emergencies without getting a headache is unworthy of the peoples' trust, and should get a pick-and-shovel job. On the farm is a better place for them. What they would like to do evidently is stall around and get out of doing anything.

H. D. MURTH,
Roseburg, Ore.

Income Tax Surplus Use For Pensions Advocated

ROSEBURG.—We ask all of the people of Oregon who voted for "Old Age Pensions" to finish the fight now that it's started.

We suggest that people start petitions and send them to our "Governor," asking for a "Special Election" to vote that "Income Tax" money may be used for "Old Age Pension" only; that the ballot be printed in common languages that we, the common people, can understand before election as well as after. Write it like our "President" speaks and we will vote for it.

MRS. ALTA WILLIAMS,
MRS. ESTHER M. TRENTON
Roseburg, Ore.

TRAFFIC FINES LEVIED

The following traffic fines are reported from the Municipal Court of Judge Ira B. Riddle: James Albert Roberts, Corvair, Calif., driving through a red light, \$5; William Henry Machen, Roseburg, driving through a red light, \$2; Jack Barker Jo-se, Roseburg, non-stop at a through street, \$2; Raymond L. Ford, Melrose Route, non-operator's license, \$5; Frank Everett Oliver, Roseburg, non-stop at a through street, \$2; Darrell Gene Paris, route 2, illegal muffler, \$2; George Pierce Hunsdale, Roseburg, non-stop at a through street, \$2.

By J. R. Williams

High Court Gives Seaman Right To Sue Government

WASHINGTON, Nov. 9.—(AP)—The Supreme Court yesterday decided the U. S. Circuit Court in San Francisco improperly dismissed an appeal by a civilian seaman who sought damages for a wartime gunshot injury received on a vessel docked at San Francisco.

As a result of the high court's decision, the seaman, Earl P. Hoiness, of Portland, Ore., can sue the government. He was injured while the vessel, "Escanaba Victory," was operated by the War Shipping Administration. The shot was fired by a member of a gun crew which had been placed aboard the ship by the Navy.

Justice Douglas delivered the unanimous decision. Hoiness filed his suit against the United States in U. S. District Court in San Francisco. But that court dismissed the case on the ground it had no jurisdiction since neither Hoiness nor the ship was in its district. Hoiness appealed to the U. S. Circuit Court in San Francisco. But that court dismissed his case on the technical ground that his appeal should have been taken from an Aug. 5, 1946, order of the District Court rather than from an Oct. 14, 1946, decree of the District Court.

Justice Douglas, in ruling that the lower courts erred, said that federal law permitted seamen to sue the United States in any Federal Court.

"The concepts of residence and principal place of business obviously can have no relevance when applied to the United States," land and unlike private parties is not centered at one particular place."

The Supreme Court sent the case back to the District Court with orders to proceed with the litigation.

Red Question at Issue

The court agreed to rule on cases presenting two big questions: 1. How much right does the House Un-American Activities Committee have to compel witnesses to testify? 2. Is the Taft-Hartley law's non-Communist provision constitutional? Gerhard Eisler, German-born Communist, raised the first in an appeal from a conviction of contempt of Congress. It was charged that he refused to be sworn to testify before the Un-American Activities Committee in February 1947. He was convicted of contempt, sentenced to a year in jail and fined \$1,000.

Eisler contended to the highest court that the committee's procedures to compel testimony under threat of contempt action are unconstitutional.

The court's decision could reduce important rules affecting all congressional committees. The challenge to the Taft-Hartley law's non-Communist provision came from the CIO American Communications Association.

The provision says no union can make use of the National Labor Relations Board's machinery unless its officers first file affidavits that they are not Communists. That means a union can't get a place on an NLRB collective bargaining election ballot unless the affidavits are filed. Several major labor figures who are outspokenly anti-Communist—John L. Lewis for one—have refused to sign on grounds of principle.

The American Communications Association brought the case when it was denied a place in a union certification election among employees of Press Wireless, Inc.

The Taft-Hartley law's provision was upheld 2-1 by a special three-judge district court in New York.

The court refused to review a case in which a St. Louis woman sought to invalidate a Nevada divorce her husband secured. Mrs. Alice F. Keller said her husband left Nevada two weeks after getting the divorce and had fraudulently represented to the Nevada court that he intended to be a resident of the state. Missouri courts have refused to throw out the divorce. The high court let the Missouri decision stand.

GOP Must Revise Its Policies, Ellsworth Says

PORTLAND, Nov. 10.—(AP)—The Republican party must sharply revise its policies as a result of the election, Rep. Harris Ellsworth (R-Ore.) said here yesterday.

President Truman's victory, he added, has "washed out" the old diehard element of the GOP. Addressing a Junior Chamber of Commerce luncheon, Ellsworth re-elected congressman from Oregon's Fourth District, attributed his party's defeat to overconfidence and failure to answer criticism of the 80th Congress.

He expressed belief the president will compel enactment of his program. This includes price controls, federal housing and civil rights legislation, repeal of at least part of the Taft-Hartley Act and restoration of excess profits.

Grange Head Warns On Molesting Support Prices

PORTLAND, Me., Nov. 9.—(AP)—The National Grange, says its master is going to speak out in convention here for continued government support of farm prices.

Albert S. Goss told an interviewer that "if someone pulls the plug (of government support) we will have a collapse of prices as we did after world war one." Goss said that support prices had done more to keep farm production up "than any other thing."

"The worst we can do," he added, "is to abandon any program which is serving to assure adequate production."

Accounting, Judgment Asked in Logging Suit

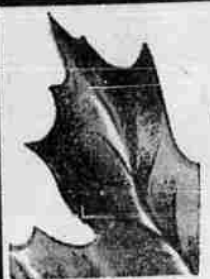
C. C. Arney has filed suit in Circuit Court against Gale Benson and Ruben Benson, doing business as Benson & Son, and against Nelson and Mrs. Nelson Geer.

The plaintiff asks for a decree requiring the defendant to account to him and pay to the plaintiff the amount of money alleged due for labor performed by the plaintiff and the defendant, Nelson Geer, in logging operations. The plaintiff states the interests of Geer were assigned over to him. According to the complaint, the work included the cutting, logging and delivery of certain timber to the Benson mill. The amount of timber was said to be in excess of 325,600 feet. Other

labor, use of a donkey engine and expenses of operation are also included in the demand for an accounting and payment.

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