

The News-Review

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SIMPLER ELECTIONS

By CHARLES V. STANTON

Secretary of State Earl Newberry reports he is studying the proposal made last week by Associated Press members from Oregon that the state's voting system be modernized. The matter was brought before the A. P. conference by W. M. Tugman, editor of the *Eugene Register-Guard*, who has been working on the proposal for several years.

Tugman's suggestion was that modern business tabulating machines be used to count ballots instead of continuing the slow, inefficient and cumbersome counting board method now practiced. Voting in the separate precincts would be very similar to the present method, except for the form of ballot, but tabulation of ballots would be accomplished in a matter of minutes rather than days.

Tugman's particular peeve concerns the "bed-sheet" form of ballot, which grows in size with every election. Any voter, we imagine, shares the dislike with him.

Given a cumbersome paper ballot and crowded into a narrow booth, the voter wrestles with the huge "ticket" while trying to write on a narrow, knot-filled plank.

After knocking off his hat a half dozen times, dropping his bifocals, and juggling a dripping umbrella, which succeeds in soaking his ballot so the paper tears with every mark, the voter becomes so exasperated that he bears down too hard and breaks the point of the pencil. Then, after becoming entangled in the pencil's restraining cord while trying to put on a new point, he finally reaches such a stage of temper that he votes for all the crack-pot candidates and scratches an X before every "no" on initiative and referendum measures as a means of expressing his resentment.

Aside from introduction of the Australian ballot, which, in part, is responsible for present complications, Oregon's election system has undergone virtually no change since statehood was achieved.

Prior to the Australian ballot, a voter could cast a pre-marked ticket furnished him by his political party. But when we eliminated party conventions and went to primary elections and Australian ballots, opening the way for independent and self-nominated candidates, and then added the initiative and referendum, we really complicated the election system.

Now we have long lists of candidates for each party post, special measures, federal, state and local nominees, etc., all printed on one ballot.

Too, with population doubling, our precincts have grown rapidly—more rapidly, in fact, than county courts have been able to adjust them. So counting boards have been forced to spend many weary hours tabulating the results, and, particularly, wasting time patiently listing useless write-in votes.

Business machine manufacturers have built machines capable of sorting and tabulating cards at a high rate of speed. It would be possible to furnish the voter with a "book" containing his ballot in the form of cards in which he would punch holes on the spot where he would normally mark his X. The book of cardboard ballots would be much easier to handle than the cumbersome paper bed sheet now used. The election would be conducted in the precinct exactly as at present, except that the votes would not be counted there. Then, after all ballots were cast, the ballot boxes would be closed and sealed, brought to the office of the county clerk, as at present, and, in the presence of an official board, boxes would be opened and ballots put through a machine, which, in a few seconds, would deliver the precinct tabulation.

Whereas it now requires from 24 to 48 hours to count election ballots in the various precincts, machines could do the same work in a matter of minutes.

At the last election, Douglas county spent \$2,463.50 on election boards. One-half of this sum would represent the money used to pay counting boards. At the next election the county will have 10 additional precincts, bringing the cost to more than \$3,000, or \$1,500 just for counting, when the work could be done by machine at virtually no cost other than interest on investment and depreciation. When not used for election purposes, the machine could be used for sorting registration slips, tax statements, and any other jobs involving sorting or tabulating.

Manufacturing companies report the machines could be constructed to meet any election requirements and still be used for general business.

It would seem to us that the proposal merits study by state officials and action by the legislature.

We Never Knew Smoke Could Be So Beautiful



Escapes from the MENDING BASKET

By Viahnett S. Martin

Remember the days when a slip of the lip might sink a ship? Remember when it was learned that signing subscription blanks giving only Navy P. O. addresses and name of ship was a serious "leak" in our need for secrecy about ship movements? Remember the bold, high-pressure salesgirls who would grab hold of a sailor and hang on until he either signed or shook her off impatiently? If several hundred sailors gave a certain ship, guess where that ship was?

Well, it doesn't matter now what goes on a magazine subscription blank. But the editor of the *Cottage Grove Sentinel* in a recent issue took front page space to warn his readers that there has been "an unusual number of outside high-pressure solicitors the past sixty days; the most numerous, the crews of magazine solicitors." The editor urges his readers to ask to see the slip, either pink or blue, being issued by the local chamber of commerce's investigating committee; reasons for approval of disapproval are given.

ers," whatever you want to call them—long have raised the hue and cry against stream pollution by industry and municipalities. Now industry uses municipalities. Every center of civilization, always, has had this problem. And few have handled it with much success. From what we hear, Portland and San Francisco are two of the worst.

Some persons have wondered if there will be this nuisance problem in connection with the Hercules operation here. Generally the matter has been shrugged off with the remark that the Klamath river is so far gone as a fishing stream in its upper reaches that it makes little difference now anyway.

In the early days before the dams at Copco, Keno, and Link river were put in—cutting off fish runs and fluctuating the stream flow—and before irrigation drainage waters and the pollutions of "civilization" poured into its waters, the Klamath was one of the finest fishing streams in the world.

Even now in winter and early spring, a host of fishermen find it squirmy with Rainbow trout when conditions are right.

The sad part of it is that conditions generally have to reach a horrible condition, as at Portland, before anybody listens much to the pleas for correction.

Make The Yellow Line Shine

The Medford Mail-Tribune

The pea-soup fog which has settled much of the western portion of Oregon and Washington in recent days has sharply emphasized the need for keeping freshly painted the yellow line which divides traffic on the highways.

Of all the rules, signs, engineering and other mediums, designed to safeguard traffic none contribute so much and none are so easy to install as these same yellow marks, trailing endlessly before the motorist—at once his guide and his comforter, especially at night or in fog.

In some instances the Pacific highway lines have become nearly obliterated by heavy traffic and non-renewal; at other spots repairs have been made which covered up the paint.

On curves, at intersections or other locations where there is considerable traffic and in any instances where there is much to divert a driver's attention, the yellow line should be kept especially emphatic with fresh paint.

The yellow line is the greatest safety measure the highway commission can provide and though it is realized we cannot have everything desired in our state highway system, this is one item for which there should be ample provision of money and manpower.

NATIONAL COST PICTURE

(The Bend Bulletin)

Here are some facts worth remembering against the day when the voters will again have an opportunity to halt the rapid descent of their country into national bankruptcy. The figures are predicated on the basis of the Pacific International Livestock exposition. They run as follows:

"From 1946 to 1949 (150 years) the Truman Administration spent \$177,000,000,000.

"From 1789 to 1930 (150 years) The United States government spent \$167,000,000,000. This included the cost of five major wars.

"There is a hidden mortgage of \$6,000 on every home in the United States.

"Oregonians paid \$337,000,000 in federal taxes last year (more than the total cash value of all crops that same year). This was your contribution to the Truman tax-and-spend program.

"Oregonians paid \$75,000,000 in state taxes last year. This covered the complete cost of our state government, which was efficiently carried out by a republican administration operating under a balanced budget."

The current national adminis-

In the Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

smug satisfaction because we are Americans.

HOW does "Balkanites" work? Well, if you're hungry for power, you first get everybody split up into factions—nations, tribes, social classes, self-seeking groups, isms, etc. Then you inspire everybody with hate, fear and suspicion of everybody else.

After that, it's duck soup. You get them all to FIGHTING EACH OTHER and in a little while you're top dog.

SIMPLE, isn't it? But it's the simple things that click.

Following this simple formula, despots and DEMAGOGUES have ruled the older parts of the world for more centuries than you can count on all your fingers and all your toes.

The result is what we see now when we get up on a high place and look down on the present-day world.

AMERICA, he told us, has remained an island of happiness in this sea of god-walting misery because so far we have had the good sense to banish such things as nationalism, social classes and so on and just be ourselves with each other.

COMMUNISM (whose fruits he has seen and lived under) he disposed of easily and casually. It is just the old racket dressed up in new clothes. The communist big shots, using the old tactics, are grabbing themselves the gravy and leaving the common run of the people to live on the slop.

WHAT does he propose as the cure?

For the world as a whole he favors a world state, patterned after the United States, with an international police force—AND SOUND AND HONEST IDEALS. He's probably right—and PRE-MATURE. That will be a long time coming.

RECOGNIZING this, he offers an intermediate remedy: PRAY AND WRITE LETTERS.

As to the first, here is a thought: When people pray, they pray FOR SOMETHING GOOD—never for something bad. When you pray honestly, you are wholly sincere. If ENOUGH sincere people pray honestly often enough, vast numbers of people will be in a good mood and when enough people are in a good mood much good can be accomplished.

As to the second, writing letters gets people heard as individuals. If enough people can be heard as individuals despotism will fall of its own weight.

It was fine talk and did us all a lot of good. Everything he said is true, but he scared me a little.

Here in America, we're beginning to divide up INTO GROUPS. Pressure groups, we're beginning to call them. Business men, laboring men, farmers, pension-seekers and so on. They're all organized. They have leaders.

Slowly, almost imperceptibly so far, these groups are being taught by their leaders to look upon each other with fear, suspicion, even, in some cases, hate.

THIS is the disturbing thought: I COULDN'T THAT BE THE POSSIBLE BEGINNING OF BALKANITIS IN THE UNITED STATES?

YOU remember the cloud on the horizon that when first seen was no larger than a man's hand. This might be it.

I hope not, but it could be.

Playwright Saroyan's Wife Obtains Divorce

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Nov. 17.—(AP)—The wife of author-playwright William Saroyan has obtained a divorce from him on a cross-complaint charging mental cruelty.

The former Carol Stuart Marcus had sued for divorce in Fresno, Calif., and Saroyan sued here. Under Nevada law she was entitled to obtain the divorce without establishing residence, as the writer had done.

The Saroyans, married in Dayton, Ohio, in 1943, have signed an agreement disposing of property and custody of their children, Aram, five, and Lucy, three.

tration is piling up even greater deficits. President Truman insists on higher taxes but has made it apparent that he will approve greater expenditures regardless of whether rates are increased and without consideration of the yield which they will bring.

Voters will do well to give thought to the principle of diminishing returns and to the likelihood that its results are presently bound to be unpleasantly noticeable. As higher taxes bring lower proportionate yields, the slide will be under way. The situation points the need for administrative change.



TO COURT IN WHEEL CHAIR—Herbert J. Burgman, 53, convicted of treason, is moved from a marshal's van (background) in Washington to Federal District court in a wheel chair. Burgman, former clerk in the American Embassy in Berlin, was accused of treason in connection with wartime broadcasts over the German radio. (AP Wirephoto).

Swank Dog Show Held To Benefit T-B Association

NEW YORK.—(AP)—The swank Hotel Pierre here opened its doors to a dog show—about the doggiest dog show, in fact, that anybody ever dreamed up.

Among those present: A Welsh terrier wearing a coat from Paris, with a little white handkerchief peering from the pocket.

A Boxer wearing a red raincoat with a hood, and waterproof leather boots to match.

An Afghan (name of "Jitterbug") wearing a green peaked hat with a bird—yes, a complete bird—on it, to say nothing of an emerald green coat with a deep fringe.

Some 250 women, mostly from the social register, plunked down \$3.25 each for a bite of lunch and a close-up view of these and assorted other canine specimens.

And Mrs. Olga Hone Rogers, president of Dogs, Inc., and chief rounder-up of four-legged fashion models for the occasion, said their money was well spent.

"This," she said, "is easily the greatest collection of champions ever seen outside of a regular dog show."

"Every dog is a champion. Internationally famous."

The show is for the benefit of the New York Tuberculosis and Health association.

Mrs. Rogers said, "Do the dogs

like it? Mister, they love it! You can just hear the lovely, dumb things saying, 'Isn't this fun? Look what they've put on me now!'

Shirley Temple's Spouse Doesn't Fight Divorce

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 17.—(AP)—Actor John Agar apparently will not oppose the divorce action of his wife, Shirley Temple.

Superior Judge Clarence L. Kincaid yesterday set Dec. 5 for trial of the actress' divorce suit on charges of cruelty. He ordered the case set as a default hearing after he was informed that Agar had not filed an answer within the legal 10-day limit.

Attorneys for the young couple, married Sept. 19, 1945, have reached a virtual agreement on a settlement. They have a 21-month-old daughter, Linda Susan.

PHONE 100

between 6.15 and 7 p. m., if you have not received your News-Review.

Ask for Harold Motley.

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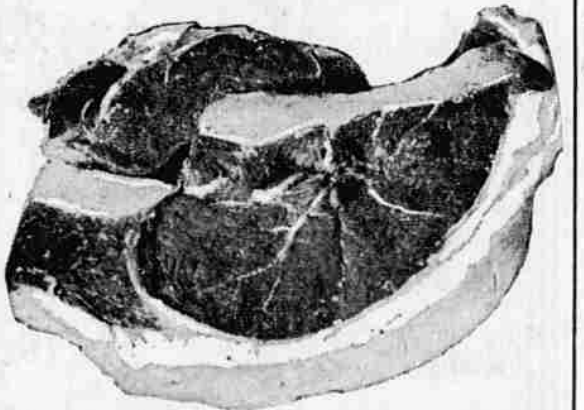
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New Legislature Plan Launched By Farm Federation

LA GRANDE, Nov. 17.—(AP)—

An initiative measure to change the State Legislature to the Federal system of House and Senate membership was planned today by the Oregon Farm Bureau federation.

State Rep. Giles French, Moro, said the bill measure for a constitutional amendment was being prepared. This followed a vote by the Farm Bureau's convention on the proposal.

The delegates favored reapportioning the legislative membership of the State House of Representatives by population and giving each county two members in the State Senate. Both Houses are presently apportioned on a

population basis—although not revised for recent changes—with membership limited to 60 in the House and 30 in the Senate.

The proposal resulted from earlier convention declarations to oppose any reapportionment that would deprive farm areas of their influence under the existing legislative system.

President Lowell Steen warned of a State property tax of up to 10 mills in 1951 unless the state found new revenue sources. He said state spending is excessive. He said Oregon had gone overboard on schools and pensions.

The second building at Harvard University, finished in 1854, was intended for the instruction of the Indians.

The peach was celebrated in Chinese literature 20 centuries before it was cultivated in Europe.

Editorial Comment

From The Oregon Press

TOURIST ADVERTISING—GOOD INVESTMENT

(Oregon City Enterprise)

Oregon's 1949 tourist business brought estimated revenues of 110 million dollars into the state, the Oregon state highway commission travel information department has recently reported. The detailed report is worth noting.

This is a substantial increase of 19 percent, over the 1948 total of \$22,000,000 and surpasses the 1947 estimate of \$105,000,000, the previous record. The last prewar travel year of 1941 is credited with a total of \$51,000,000. The 1949 figures are based on a state highway department traffic check of out-of-state automobiles at 15 major points of entry.

The average 1949 expenditure per day per person is estimated at \$5.75 as compared to \$3.35 during the 1948 travel year. Each out-of-state car represented an expenditure of \$113.39, based on an average load of 2.9 persons per car and an average stay of 6.8 days in Oregon, or equivalent to \$39.10 per person. These figures represent motorists who stayed in campgrounds as well as those who patronized hotels, auto courts and resorts, providing a thorough cross section of Oregon vacation travel.

Approximately 777,450 out-of-state automobiles visited Oregon during the year, with average mileage of 832 for each. Oregon attracted visitors from every state in the union, with California credited with more than 50 percent because of its proximity and large population. As in previous years Washington and Illinois were second and third in the number of out-of-state cars, and Idaho was fourth.

Early in 1949, a declining year for the tourist industry was predicted. Out-of-state traffic indicated increases as early as April, following a pattern for the year and the decline never developed.

The 1948 travel volume suffered from May and June flood waters in the Columbia river, which in 1949 in no way threatened traffic at any time. Weather through the summer was ideal in every part of the state.

The travel industry continues

on an increasingly competitive basis. Currently nearly all the states are engaged in aggressive promotion of their recreational and other resources by national advertising and publicity. Each section is doing its utmost to increase tourist revenue, because every state realizes the value of the tourist.

Also travel abroad continues to be pushed by European countries and foreign resort areas. Canada, Mexico and South America are bidding for more American visitors through extensive advertising programs. The state must compete.

Oregon's own advertising program through the fall, winter and spring of 1948 and 1949 brought 112,416 inquiries by mail. The prewar record was set in 1940 when 75,000 mail inquiries on Oregon vacation lands were received. Oregon's scenic attractions were featured in color and black and white ads in national magazines, motor club periodicals, travel magazines and newspapers.

Newspaper advertisements are used in the spring and fall to lengthen the vacation season by encouraging tourist travel in the spring, and early summer of the year and then again during September when Indian summer days continue on into October. Preparations are now being vertising campaign to encourage "For the 1949-50 Oregon adage vacation travel in the state for another busy tourist year in 1950. The highway fund so used is one of the best investments Oregon as a state is making."

STREAM POLLUTION SUIT

(Klamath Falls Herald and Tribune)

A short item on the AP from Portland Saturday said the city of Portland will stand suit in circuit court next week for \$140,000 damages on the charge that city sewage clogs cedar logs in Columbia Slough causing that much loss to a shingle company. Times change. This action probably brings a sardonic chuckle to many members of such be-knighted groups as the sports fishermen, outdoors people—"conservationists," "nature lov-