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CRITICS VOICE OPINIONS

By CHARLES V. STANTON

Quiet but active opposition to the proposal for a state board of natural resources already is in evidence. Present indications are that the timber industry as a whole will be rather solidly aligned against the project. Agricultural and reclamation interests also are expressing fear. Altogether the outlook at present is that the proposed bill will have some tough sledding.

The bill to create a department of natural resources is proposed by a legislative interim committee. It would create nine departments, embracing forestry, soil conservation, water conservation, sanitation, fisheries, wildlife, geology and minerals, state lands, natural history and research. Existing commissions, departments and boards would be brought into the organization. Nine directors would be named for the natural resources board, to which would be transferred all power, authority and duties of the several existing state agencies. A general director would be appointed to head the department. Each division would have an advisory board consisting of nine members. Agencies transferred to the board would continue existing membership and personnel with their respective heads acting as division directors.

Critics Fearful of Change

Some of the criticism obviously stems from departments fearful of loss of autonomy. Jealous of their present authority, they want no interference. Other resistance will come from persons who consistently object to any sort of change. Another class of objection is entitled to much more consideration than that from sources mentioned. This more constructive opposition centers chiefly in forest and farm interests anticipating possible economic damage.

Oregon's forestry laws are said to be the best in the nation from a conservation standpoint and have been widely copied. The regulations, it is claimed, are working very satisfactorily and, according to some persons, should not be made subject for change by a natural resources board. The soil conservation work also is jealously regarded by agricultural interests.

Need Shown For Education

Whether or not the proposed bill passes at the next session of the legislature, it will at least serve to emphasize need for better conservation practices.

Despite fine provisions contained in Oregon's forest laws, ample room exists for improvement. The laws give little protection to watersheds, soil losses, and siltation. Some of Oregon's coastal lakes have been critically damaged by weed infestation, aggravated by use of lakes for logging purposes. Controversy is raging over a proposal by the state land board to sell public lands in Warner valley, in Lake county, authorizing the draining of lakes and swamps of extreme value for migratory waterfowl uses, even though reports indicate the land to be decidedly of submarginal character for agricultural purposes.

Coordination of Effort Advisable

These and numerous other conflicts and deficiencies point to the need for better coordination between state agencies dealing with renewable resources. Some form of general guidance and supervision is imperative.

It appears at first glance that the bill, as proposed by the interim committee, sets up a somewhat cumbersome organization. Any natural resources board, involving so many departments, obviously contains danger of a political machine which could virtually absorb the state government. The committee has endeavored to reduce this danger through provision for advisory boards. When, however, too much power and authority is placed in the hands of one person, such as a general director of the proposed natural resources board, the inherent political threat cannot be treated lightly.

The interim committee proposes public hearings in all parts of the state to consider the program in detail. It is possible that these hearings will bring forth ideas to streamline the organization and to eliminate possibility of excessive political influence.

We are convinced that public hearings will furnish ample proof of the need for better planning, coordination and management in the field of natural resources and will result in public demand for at least some form of general authority.

Employment In Oregon Boosted

SALEM, April 27. — (AP) — Employment in Oregon has increased to almost record proportions for this time of year, the state unemployment compensation commission said today.

The commission said that if the advance continues, that the all-time record of 461,000 non-farm workers might be reached by mid-summer. This record was set in August, 1948.

The commission estimated 400,000 non-farm workers are employed now. There were 21,690 workers receiving jobless benefits last week. Of that number, 7,250 were in Portland, 2,208 in Eugene, 1,382 in Salem, 787 in Astoria, 742 in Klamath Falls, and 661 in Oregon City.

The commission estimated the total number of unemployed at 38,665 on April 1, compared with 74,700 on March 1.

Rubber Band Hazard Is Demonstrated In Mishap

BOSTON, April 27. — (AP) — Even a rubber band can be dangerous in the wrong hands.

State Sen. Charles W. Olson was using that argument yesterday to score a point in opposition to legislation which would ban the sale of beanblowers and air rifles in Massachusetts.

He said he'd had arguments and other weapons since he was a kid. "How far are we going to go with this thing?" he asked. "Why you can take a rubber band—"

As he spoke, Olson took a rubber band and stretched it between his fingers. It slipped.

The band made a bull's eye on the back of the head of Senate clerk Irving W. Hayden.

Olson apologized to Hayden. Then turning to his colleagues, he said triumphantly: "See what I mean."

Recipe For Trouble



In the Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

marines had a considerable part in the job.

He lost his temper and slapped her and was ejected from the hall by the marine nephews aided by some neighbors. He got himself a \$20 rifle, ambushed the two ex-marines on their way home, killing one of them and seriously wounding the other.

He explained to the arresting officers that he didn't really mean any harm. He was JUST MAD, he said.

At this point the scene shifts from California to Iowa, where a farm lad was trying to get a cow to go into the barn. (This, too happened Saturday. This past weekend seems to have been bad business.) The cow acted as cows often act, and the boy blew up.

He climbed into a pickup truck and ran it over his mother and then tried to drive it up onto a porch where his invalid father was sitting in a wheel chair. The truck didn't negotiate the porch handily, but it shook the father's wheel chair off and the old gentleman was considerably bruised in the break-up.

The kid, still fuming, ran into the house, set fire to an overstuffed chair, grabbed up a shotgun and dashed out into the wide, wide world. He hasn't been seen since, but officers are hunting him.

DON'T want to seem frivolous, but I can't help wondering what the outcome would have been if the short-tempered youngster had been trying to get a hog through a gate instead of a cow into a barn.

My personal opinion, derived from a certain amount of experience in younger years, is that trying to drive a hog through a gate (or back through a hole in the fence the hog just came out of) it about as exasperating as anything can be.

If it had been a hog instead of a cow, the boy might have wiped out half the township.

DID these incidents, scattered around over our big country, occur because the pace of modern life is adding brains that weren't too solidly set up in the first place? Or is the seemingly screwball pace of our modern life due to the presence among us of too many added brains?

Which came first—the hen or the egg?



Have you ever taken a minute while crossing the Cascades at the McKenzie pass to read the bronze plaque on the tomb of John Templeton Craig? It was placed there on the headstone by the Rural Letter Carriers association of Oregon, on July 10, 1930.

John Craig was a man with one idea from the time he made the crossing with Felix Scott in 1836, breaking a trail across wilderness for cattle and wagons, the first time this was ever done—1862.

At that time the road up the river from Springfield went only as far as a rock formation popularly called "The Rock House," about four miles east of what is now Vida. The party of 50 or 60 men hacked their way up through the rough terrain, taking all summer, and finally by fall they had succeeded in driving 900 cattle and nine wagons of supplies over the summit down into the pines on the eastern side. They wintered on Trout creek in what is now Jefferson county, and resumed progress in the spring of 1863, heading towards Boise.

The plan was to open a way to supply the Idaho miners without going up the Columbia. One company after another was formed to construct the highway, but the work was not done. One man however, never gave up! He was John Craig. He visualized that road so wholeheartedly and with such confidence that he, paying no attention to ridicule, worked on it with his own hands, inch by inch. He built a cabin at what is now McKenzie Bridge for his headquarters. He was then in his sixties! The route on which he worked was the one we now follow, a thousand feet lower than the tortuous route used by Scott in 1862.

It was a toll road until 1894. Toll for a wagon drawn by two horses was \$2. Four horses was \$2.50. Horsemen, \$1. Pack horse, fifty cents. Loose horses and cattle, ten cents a head, and for sheep, five cents a head. The toll-keeper was paid \$150 per year.

I have been indebted to Mr. Brittain Ash, district ranger at McKenzie Bridge for a copy of Judge Sawyer's address at the time the Craig monument was dedicated. Tomorrow's column will continue notes made from this source.

Editorial Comment

From The Oregon Press

THE SCHEME UNFOLDS

(The Bend Bulletin)

Every now and then something appears in the news that tells us a bit more about the study of the possibility of diverting water from the Columbia river to southern California. Each bit of knowledge so revealed makes more and more clear the threat to the northwest implicit in this proposal and more and more clear the need for united northwest action in opposition. There becomes more apparent, also, the reclamation bureau's indifference to state rights in water and its disregard of the nation's financial situation.

Thus, in the Oregonian recently there was a story of the appointment of Kenneth G. Tower, of the office of army engineers, as chief of the power division of the united western investigation, as the study is now called, and with it Tower's explanation of some of his work. In his new job he will be transferred to the bureau of reclamation and assigned to the special project office in Salt Lake City.

Here are parts of the story: In any study of the possibility of diverting water from the Columbia to wet the throats of thirsty Los Angeles the loss to the Columbia's power projects will be considered.

One of Tower's responsibilities in the new project will be to determine how much power would be lost to the Columbia river's generating plants if water were diverted. The value of such water to the Columbia drainage area will be added to the cost of the proposed project in arriving at estimates. Tower explained.

The engineers will determine the value of such water to Los Angeles, its value to the Columbia river area from which it would be diverted, and the costs of each proposed project.

Hitherto, discussion of this water diversion project has been confined to the question of what waters might be taken for which there was no potential use in the Columbia region. Bill Warner's original suggestion was for a diversion below Bonneville that, if course, being the last point on the river at which there was water project use. Now we suddenly find that there

will be an examination of comparative values as between the Columbia area and Los Angeles. No longer is it a question of how much water can the Northwest spare without damage.

We shall not venture a forecast of the findings as to water value but let us suppose that "determination is that it is greater to Los Angeles than to the Columbia area. There will follow, as a matter of course, the demand that the diversion be made. Suppose it is made. To whom in the Columbia region is compensation to be awarded for the local losses?

How, as a matter of fact, are values to be compared? In the study, says Mr. Tower, "the loss to the Columbia power projects will be considered" if the diversion is made. The loss, of course, is of kilowatts. If enforced it is a loss for all time. What compensation can be made for a loss of that sort?

Another of Mr. Tower's statements, as reported in that news story, is that "Diversion of water into the Colorado from tributaries of the Columbia near their headwaters will be surveyed." The only Columbia tributary from which there might possibly be a diversion such as Mr. Tower will study is the Snake. If there were a diversion it would be at the expense of Idaho reclamation or Snake river power or both. Idaho would protest the former; the bureau of reclamation could hardly see the latter development reduced a size by this California chimera.

The bureau should drop this united western investigation and study a few ways to economize and reduce its spending.

Dr. Frampton Price To Speak On Mental Health

Dr. Frampton B. Price, chief psychologist at the Roseburg Veterans hospital, will be the speaker at the Lions club meeting tonight at 8:30 in the Hotel Empqua.

Girl Stricken With Paralysis Becomes Parachuting Artist

By HAL BOYLE

SEATTLE, (AP) — To some people a physical handicap is a death of the spirit. To others it is only a spur to victory.

There is a woman here whose life story is a living example of the truth that a courageous heart can rise above any affliction. She is Mrs. Emil Hildegarde, better known as Hildegarde, one of the leading restaurateurs of the Northwest.

At the age of nine Hildegarde—born Hilda Drahod, one of nine children of a landscape gardener—was stricken with infantile paralysis.

"For eight long years I had to wear a plaster cast from my neck to my neck," she recalled. "But it made me determined to lead a normal life — to be like other girls."

When she was 17 she drove with some friends to the Tacoma airfield. "Stub" Campbell, an old-time daredevil who wanted a new stunt to thrill crowds at a forthcoming Fourth of July air show, asked the group of spectators: "Is there any girl here daring enough to make a parachute jump?"

"I will," volunteered Hilda. And jump she did — from 2,000 feet.

Cast Discarded — "I was still supposed to be wearing my cast at the time," she said. "But I wanted to prove to my six brothers I could do something they couldn't. I didn't get paid for it, but someone passed the hat and collected \$27."

In the next two years she made 25 parachute jumps in barnstorming tours with such fliers and stunt men as Campbell, "Tex" Rankin and Jimmy Doolittle. The most she ever earned for a jump was \$50.

"My second jump was the worst," she said. "In those days the chute was tied to the wing, and when you leaped your weight broke the lacing and opened the parachute."

"I jumped, but the lacing failed to break. I was too light. For 20 minutes I dangled a few feet below the wing while the plane circled the field. Finally 'Stub' climbed out on the wing and tore the lacing loose with his hands. That released the chute and I floated down and landed in a Cottonwood tree."

"I was too dumb to be worried then. I thought maybe that was the way it was supposed to happen."

Campbell Killed — In 1928 the strapping on Campbell's chute snapped during a routine jump, and he fell to his death. That ended Hildegarde's career as a stunt girl, too. Her mother made her quit.

"Of course, I had no business making the jumps anyway, as the paralysis had left me with a twisted back," she smiled.

Hildegarde then started selling hamburgers at a local fair. She saved up \$300 and started her first restaurant, which menued—those were the days! — a 25 cent turkey dinner. She did all the cooking and table-hopping herself.

Then she opened a larger restaurant near McChord field, and likes to remember how once a general helped her wash dishes at 5 o'clock in the morning.

Today she and her husband, Emil, a mechanical engineer, plan a chain of west coast restaurants featuring fried chicken prepared by her own secret formula. They

Labor Dispute In S. F. Bay Region Ties Up Docks

OAKLAND, Calif., April 27. — (AP) — The AFL Teamsters union threatened today to tie up the Oakland port completely and divert cargoes to the San Francisco docks in its spreading jurisdictional fight with the CIO.

Operation at two private and three public warehouse terminals here was halted yesterday when local 70 of the teamsters set up picket lines. The AFL union accused CIO longshoremen of hampering their operation so severely draymen could not use mechanical lifts in loading or unloading their vehicles.

George King, president of local 70 who ordered the picket lines established, declared: "Nothing moves in or out of the terminals here for the duration. From now on, merchandise will be diverted to San Francisco and will be stowed on the docks there unless they picket the waterfront."

King added that if the San Francisco piers are picketed his teamsters will "ignore the picket lines the same in San Francisco as local 6 (the CIO longshoremen) is ignoring our lines over in Oakland."

Yesterday, all deliveries and pickups by local truck drivers destined for ocean-going vessels were halted in the dock areas. Long distance trucks were permitted through the picket lines.

King said today's ban would apply to all trucks.

Rice Valley Grange Holds Regular Meet

The Rice Valley Grange met at the hall Tuesday evening with Mrs. Wayne Rice as hostess and Kenneth LeMar, master, in the chair. Refreshments were served by Mrs. Rice to Mr. and Mrs. Al. Foxen, Wayne Rice, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Wales, Mr. and Mrs. William Caster, Mrs. Harry Dunbar, Mrs. Cecil Hartford, Mrs. Ralph Emerson, Kenneth LaMar, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Smith, Mrs. George Waller, Mrs. Emmett Churchill and Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Rice.

The next meeting of the grange will be at the hall on Tuesday evening May 9.

NOTED JUDGE DIES

BAYPORT, N. Y., April 27. — (AP) — Federal Judge Murray Hulbert, 65, first judge to participate in the recent Communist conspiracy case, died here yesterday in his country home.

The jurist, who was appointed to the bench in the southern district of New York by President Roosevelt in 1934, presided over many spectacular trials.

Riddle Students Broadcast

Third grade students from Riddle school, under the direction of Mrs. Margaret McGee, music teacher, were featured on a school broadcast today over KRNR.

The program featured class songs, a duet, clarinet solo by Forette McGee, piano solo by Maxine Ruckel and vocal solo by Miss McGee. The announcers for the broadcast were Patricia Preston, Maxine Ruchel, James Teel and Bonnie Loper.

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