

The News-Review

Published Daily Except Sunday by the
News-Review Company, Inc.
Entered as second class matter May 7, 1920, at the post office at
Roseburg, Oregon under act of March 3, 1879
CHARLES V. STANTON Editor and Manager
Member of the Associated Press, Oregon Newspaper Publishers
Association, the Audit Bureau of Circulations
Represented by WEST-HOLLIDAY CO., INC., offices in New York, Chicago,
San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, Portland, Denver
SUBSCRIPTION RATES—In Oregon—By Mail—Per Year, \$12.00; six months, \$6.50;
three months, \$3.25 Outside Oregon—By Mail—Per Year, \$13.00; six months,
\$7.00; three months, \$3.50
By News-Review Carrier—Per Year, \$12.00 (in advance), less than one year,
per month, \$1.25.

UNETHICAL PROPOSAL

Charles V. Stanton

The proposal by the General Accounting Office that payments to Oregon and California Land Grant counties revert to the original formula, based on the amount the lands would bear as taxes, is of serious concern. Douglas County, which has the major share of grant lands, is the one to be hurt most.

The GAO contends that the counties have no legitimate claim, inasmuch as the lands were never patented and thus were not subject to taxation.

The proposal advanced by GAO violates ethical principles.

As previously mentioned, it is a moral violation in the fact that the federal government imposed the existing policy upon counties through selfish motive after accumulating a deficit while making payments in lieu of taxes. Now that the lands are producing income, the government, if GAO's proposal is accepted, would become an "Indian Giver" simply because of its jealousy over benefits to Oregon counties.

But there is a still deeper and more essential principle involved; a principle that has been enunciated by Congress itself.

State Welfare Promoted

A Senate Committee in a report made to Congress May 18, 1916, declared that the lands originally were granted and "dedicated to the settlement and upbuilding of the State of Oregon."

The purpose of the lands was reaffirmed in Supreme Court decisions made at the time the grant was vested in the federal government.

The O & C grant was made to help finance construction of the Oregon and California railroad between Portland and San Francisco. It was the intent of Congress to promote settlement of the area. The railroad company was required to sell the lands to settlers at \$2.50 per acre. Because the railroad company violated the terms of the grant, the government took the lands back into possession, paying the railroad company the \$2.50 per acre sale price.

At the time the grant was made, the lands were described before Congress as "comparatively valueless, if not entirely so." It was contended that value could result only by opening the area by railroad construction.

It is quite apparent that the grant carried the purpose of promoting the welfare of the area traversed by the railroad through aid to construction of the transportation line.

We believe that Congress has neither the moral nor the legal right to alter the original purpose of the grant. The fact that title was vested in the federal government does not relieve the government of responsibility in administering the lands for the purpose for which they were originally designed. In such administration the federal government, therefore, has no right, as we see it, to retain more of the revenue than it actually requires for administrative purposes. If the "welfare" purpose is to be faithfully executed, counties are entitled to ALL revenue over and above federal administrative costs.

Those who urge outlawing the party believe it would have the effect of making mere membership flat evidence of conspiracy against the U. S. Outlawry would forewarn anyone from joining the party who did not wish to run the risk of being trapped as a conspirator.

Tax Basis Questionable

The GAO contends that the lands should return to the counties only the amount that would be paid if they were taxed as privately owned lands.

But that raises a question. Would GAO agree to taxation on current valuations equal to adjacent timber in private ownership? Would it submit to school district, drainage district, port district, water district and other local taxes, fluctuating from year to year?

Unless consent is given to tax levies equal in all respects to adjacent privately owned lands, the GAO position is completely untenable in addition to being unethical.

It would make clear to all citizens once and for all that the Communist Party is not to be viewed as an ordinary political organization operating within the framework of the democratic process. The Communists would use the ballot only to gain power to destroy the ballot.

Critics of the outlawry plan argue, for one thing, that it would drive the Reds underground. The truth is they have always been there. The real conspiratorial heart of U. S. communism has never been exposed to public gaze. The facade erected above ground

has been deliberately designed to deceive and mislead.

Since the first of the Smith Act convictions, much of the surface trappings have disappeared, too. Outlawing the party would not make a great deal of difference. It is also contended that to ban the party would be to interfere with free speech. But Sen. Margaret Chase Smith, Maine Republican, would spell out in her outlawry bill that there was no intent to suppress discussion of Communist ideas as such.

Obviously we could not and do not intend to shut off discussion of anything under the sun. To try would be to introduce thought control.

We want to hear about communism, what it purports to offer, what its system of thinking is. If we believe in the deep values of freedom, we cannot fear that our democratic approach will suffer in competition. On the other hand, if we do not study rival systems, how can we know how best to combat them and preserve our own?

But, as we have said, outlawing the Communist Party, labeling it for the conspiracy it is, marking it as the agent of a foreign power, need not affect these fundamental civil privileges.

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Did Ever a Prospective Mother Have a Worse Time?



Bruce Bioassat

Under the Smith Act, some 60 top Communist leaders have been convicted of conspiring to teach and advocate the overthrow of the United States government. But there are some who think this law is insufficient. They believe the Communist Party should be outlawed in America.

In order to convict three-core Communist chiefs, the Justice Department had to build, in effect, 60 individual cases specifically proving conspiracy. Yet, oddly enough, to do that required demonstrating in every instance that the Communist Party itself is a conspiratorial organization and nothing else.

Even though this has now been proved again and again to the satisfaction of judge and jury, the courts do not accept membership in the Communist Party as automatic evidence of conspiracy. The law requires that it be established specifically in each case.

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'Forcep Four' Champs In Barbershop Warble

FOREST GROVE — The "Forcep Four" is the champion barbershop singing quartet in the Pacific Northwest.

The University of Oregon medical school quartet won the title in the finals of the annual contest here Saturday night. Eighteen singing groups from Oregon and Washington competed.

The Varistones from Seattle, who won last year, were second. Other finalists finished this way: Kord Kins, Everett, Wash.; Vancouver Quarter Notes, Fog Bound Four, Port Angeles, Wash.; Four Little Shavers, Portland; Here Too Four, Port Angeles; and the Gay Blades, Vancouver.

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In The Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

then mattered little. There was practically no problem that people cared a hoot about that couldn't be settled by the town council. If there had been in the world then such people as communists and if the communists had been kicking up a ruckus in say India, almost no one would even have heard of it, and if anyone had happened to hear of it his probable comment would have been "Where in the Sam Hill is India?"

With that, the subject would have been dropped, for no one would have cared enough about it to pursue it further.

Times have certainly changed. In these days, what goes on in the world at large determines whether your son or your husband (if you are a woman) shall GO TO WAR. If you are a youth of military age, what goes on in the world at large determines whether or not you yourself shall go to war. We have reached the point where what happens in the congress at Washington is of more serious import to us than what happens in our city council.

I can wish it hadn't happened. But it HAS happened.

Never again can the boundaries of our own small community be for us the boundaries of the world. Never again can we feel in our hearts the smugly positive assurance that our town is the axle around which the world revolves. Why, it may not be more than a couple of generations or so when our children will be talking as casually about taking off for a week-end trip to the moon, or maybe Venus or Mars, as we now speak of taking off for Honolulu.

From here on out, we're going to HAVE to be interested, whether we like it or not, in the affairs of the world at large as well as in the problems of our own town and county.

So I suppose we newspaper people will go right on talking about things that are over our heads and getting (as this correspondent intimates in his letter) too big for our britches.

Reader Opinions

Gonna Do This, Gonna Do That, But Changes Mind

ROSEBURG — (In reply to Mr. B. Ames)—I'm gonna go to Italy. That's what I'm gonna do. But who's the ruler there now? You never know it seems. I'm off to visit Syria—I want some butter. But, gosh, the situation there. (mutter, mutter) In Egypt I shall see the Sphinx, and milk I shall afford. Naguib left there quickly though perhaps I'll stay aboard. A "cloyen" I'll be of France. A flat is cheap, they say. But who'll I vote for president? I'll vote most every day. In the shadow of the Kremlin in Moscow, equality. But keep my mouth shut all my life? Oh gee, that ain't for me! What? Work, eat beans, and drink skim milk; worship God on Sunday? Well, I guess I'll stay, and keep my trap shut 'til I've something useful to say.

B. FORREST
Box 569, Idleyld Rd.
Roseburg, Oregon.

Weyerhaeuser's Investments Put At \$206 Million

TACOMA — Weyerhaeuser Timber Co.'s investment in its post-war plant expansion and modernization program now totals 206 million dollars, it was reported here Friday.

The company's annual report to shareholders points out that additions to plants, equipment, and tree farm roads amounted to \$27,790,564 during 1953 alone. This investment program, resulting in increased production of forest products, aided the company in reaching an all-time high in sales during 1953.

Sales of forest products were \$76,796,382, up 67 per cent from 1952. The company's net income was only slightly higher, \$36,751,253 (\$5.92 per share), than that of the previous year, \$36,706,578 (\$5.89 per share).

Employees of the company earned \$71,590,155 in wages, salaries, vacation and holiday pay, an increase of \$3,756,293 over 1952. In addition, the cost of employee benefits—pensions, employee insurance, and social security taxes—was \$5,895,065, compared with \$5,512,593 in 1952. Company employment averaged 14,795 during the year.

Average annual wages for hourly paid employees were highest in the firm's history: \$4,538, up \$168 from 1952. The additional cost of pensions, employee insurance, and social security taxes for the average hourly paid employee was \$337.

Dividends paid to shareholders were \$15,338,421. The year's dividend rate of \$2.50 per share was the same in 1952 and 1951. The company's 1953 tax bill was \$36,204,907.

Over-all forest products sales were composed of these items: Lumber, \$156,514,173; pulp and paperboard, \$69,314,686; fiber and bark products, \$19,825,968; plywood, \$14,207,556; and other, \$16,933,999.

Pulp production increased 25 per cent over 1952, due to the new Kraft mill at Everett, Wash., and expansions of existing mills at Longview, Wash., and Springfield, Ore. Weyerhaeuser's lumber production was up 7 per cent, but prices were down. Plywood production exceeded 1952's by 45 per cent.

PEERY MEDICALS

BY W.K. PEERY

McLoughlin's attitude toward the policies of the Hudson's Bay Company has been a matter of dispute among those students who have studied his administration in Old Oregon. Some hold that McLoughlin was a dictator by nature. He was supposed to