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FIRE TRAPS SHOULD GO

Decision of the Portland fire commissioner to raze a number of old buildings in that city because of the fire hazard has caused quite a bit of light thrown on conditions under which these fire traps are operated. If the commissioner proceeds with his orders which he will likely do, he will be open to criticism for throwing a lot of old people out of a place to live as well as causing a howl from the property owner, who stands to lose his investment. On the other hand a lot of just criticism could be leveled at the city of Portland if two or three bad fires occurred with the loss of life. By razing these fire traps, Portland will not only rid itself of a fire danger, but will improve the appearance of the district as well. A wooden building that has stood for over sixty-six years has certainly outlived its usefulness, more particularly in the fire district.

Our readers may recall that some four or five years ago an effort was made to clean our own fire district by naming the fire trap of the week, totaling some seven or eight buildings in the business district. Property owners naturally did not like the idea, but that did not make the building less hazardous and less likely to cause a bad fire with possibly consequential loss of life. So far as the occupancy of some of the condemned buildings here are concerned, we doubt if the matter has been looked into.

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Likewise we doubt if there has been a check made by any fire inspector. Nevertheless the danger is still present, but we are afraid nature will have to eliminate the danger by slowly rotting the buildings down and this is what is happening.

“JUST ANOTHER BUREAU”

Commenting on the proposed Wagner-Murray-Dingell public health bill, which is certain to be a storm center during the next Congress, Representative Andersen of Minnesota said: “I am not a doctor, but I have spent many years in Washington observing the growth and power of bureaucracy. The disgusting thing about many government agencies is the utter lack of responsibility, coupled with bungling, delays and buck passing. I am, therefore, convinced that the proposed agency to administer medical care will be just another bureau—reaching into every community and home, with the primary objective of selling a political philosophy under the guise of attending the health of the people. This customary political activity, coupled with the regimentation and planning of bureaucracy, can only be construed as an open attempt to provide the people with socialized medicine.”

The bureau necessary to administer this measure would be one of the largest in the government. It would, therefore, become one of the most profitable sources of political jobs—and a monument to the spoils system. Men with little knowledge of medicine, and with no knowledge of local needs and desires throughout this vast country, would be given enormous powers over doctors, hospitals, clinics and everything else connected with the profession of medical care. Doctors would become, in effect, the servants of the government, and their incomes and advancement would become dependent on political considerations.

For this reason alone, even if the four or five billion dollars a year the measure would cost the people is disregarded, the bill should be defeated. Political domination of the healing arts would reduce, not improve, our fine standards of medical care. And it would undoubtedly destroy the voluntary prepayment plans for medical and hospital care which are now doing so much to solve the financial problems caused by sickness.

WHY DRAG IT OUT?

The soundness of the proposal of Senator Taft, who may get the GOP leadership in the senate to cut the income tax rate is open to question. We owe the biggest national debt in the history of the country. To cut the income tax rate would be just like a business establishment cutting in half the installment payment say on a radio, when the customer was able to meet the full amount of his installment payment. The question in business would be why drag out the payments unnecessarily.

A drastic reduction in the number of federal bureaus and the number of federal employees would really get the job done quicker.

WINNERS ALL

By Elmer J. Kent

Perhaps those who opposed the pension measure as well as most of the ones who supported it feel that with its defeat old age assistance and security is on its way out. “Don’t you believe it.” Let’s glance back 10 years when the average was about \$12 and red tape without end. October 1946 the average was nearly \$45 a gain of about 300 per cent, admitting that a dollar won’t buy as much as it did then it still is good. This has been accomplished because some officials, some individuals and some organizations were interested, because somebody cared.

In an editorial we recently had in the Sentinel we admitted not knowing whether this measure was the answer or not. Those who opposed it didn’t either but had the backing of the financial interests that defeated it. Had everyone voted unbiased leaving it to the majority as it is supposed to be in a democracy the measure no doubt would have carried. When labor, farm groups and all pension minded organizations tire of playing into the hands of the big interests, sit down at a table and draw up a measure satisfactory to all, perhaps lowering the age limit, lessening the requirements and increasing the amount, and when the membership decide to do their own thinking of which they are capable then even the big interests with all their financial backing won’t be able to buy its defeat. In the meantime we are proud of the small part we have been able to play in bringing about better things for our older people and shall continue to work for their advancement. Don’t waste your sympathy pitying them. Every nickel or dollar they give is voluntary. They don’t want that kind of sympathy. Have you ever heard one of them say the good times socially as well as the added benefits weren’t worth all it cost? Most of us younger ones who are their leaders don’t even present bills for our mileage when attending district or state meetings. Maybe it’s just because we are interested in those less fortunate. Maybe way back in our childhood our parents told us of “The Golden Rule.”

SUTHERLIN BOY INJURED WHILE HUNTING

Richard Hensley, 15, Sutherlin, was admitted to Sacred Heart hospital Friday after a hunting accident in which he received a buckshot wound in the eye.

He had been hunting with some companions when one of them shot at some quail and accidentally struck the boy. His condition Saturday was reported “pretty good.”

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S. P. MEN AND WOMEN CAMPAIGN AGAINST ACCIDENTS ON JOB

More than 70,000 Southern Pacific men and women in Oregon and six other western states are participating in a safety campaign to eliminate personal injuries to employees during the railroad’s observance of “Accident Prevention Weeks” the fore part of November, according to announcement by A. T. Mercer, president.

The system-wide campaign directed by A. A. Lowe, superintendent of safety for the company’s Pacific Lines, is patterned after a series of localized safety drives the railroad recently conducted. “Accident Prevention Weeks” will culminate five years of intensive safety promotion among the railroaders which has brought continuous improvement, Lowe reports. Personal injuries to employees throughout the company’s Pacific Lines averaged 25 percent fewer in September and October than in the first six months of 1946, he states.

EXPLOSION OF GASOLINE FATAL TO GARAGE WORKER

Burns from explosion of gasoline poured into a motorcycle were fatal Sunday to David Barker, 53, Junction City.

Rollo Barker, a brother, reported the victim dashed from the garage in which he was working

Walter J. Holland Renominated in Close County Race

Walter J. Holland, democratic incumbent and Lane county’s only democratic office holder held his chair for the county commissioner in the face of late but unofficial returns from over the county as given out last week. The last unofficial count gave Holland 9,949 votes to 9,839 votes for A. C. Forney, his republican opponent. The three mill levy for the new court house and jail also went down in defeat with a no vote of 7,184 to 5,889 yes vote.

CURTIN

The little twin, Leona Arzie, who makes her home with the Sid Billings family here, is again at home. She has been at the Doernbecher hospital for several months undergoing an operation and treatment, and is expected to soon be able to walk without crutches.

Eldon Thompson and son Edward went fishing in the Umpqua Saturday.

A. V. Willis returned home Friday with his knee in a cast. He has been troubled with his knee for quite some time now. We hope it will soon be well again.

Mr. Raines, the night watchman at the Curtin mill, reports that he saw a very large cougar the other night. It crossed the road in front of him on his way to his home near Lorane.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Orey have moved into their lovely new home, just north of their daughter’s, Mrs. Noma Remington, on highway 99, across from Anlauf Park. We understand they plan to sell their old home.

P. B. Goins has purchased a D4 cat, and he and Clayton Payne are getting out logs on the Goins and Payne places about two miles up Bear Creek.

The Harry Cain place, on highway 99 near Anlauf, was recently sold to a California party. Mr. and Mrs. Cain are moving, temporarily, into the house vacated by the Floyd Oreys.

Mrs. Max Ames has been ill for some time with sciatic rheumatism. She is still confined to her home. The Ames family sold a large number of their hen turkeys last week. They have some extremely large and fine turkeys still left.

Miss Lois Goins has been missed at the Curtin store a number of days lately. First she spent several days with her aunt, Mrs. Willis Booher, at Charleston, and now she keeps very busy with the housekeeping at home while her mother is visiting friends and relatives in Des Moines and Council Bluffs.

Ed. Gallatin of Anlauf is reported to have suffered a stroke the first of this week. We hope it is not severe and that he will soon be around again.

Miss Fay Clark, born here at Curtin, and a graduate of the Curtin school and the Drain high school, is to be married Saturday, Nov. 16, at Drain, Rev. Hunt officiating. With her husband, who is from Colorado, and who served in the armed forces for some years, she expects to make a honeymoon trip to his old home. They have no definite plans thereafter.

on the machine and extinguished the flames with a canvas after the explosion.

CHURCHES OF OREGON WILL LAUNCH OVERSEAS RELIEF DRIVE

A three-point program for immediate overseas relief to be sent to Europe and Asia this winter was launched by the churches of Oregon on Sunday, November 10, according to Charles A. Sprague, former governor, and president of the Oregon Council of Churches.

The drive, conducted through the appeal “Share the Plenty—Save the Waste”, will be for cash to buy foodstuffs, clothing of all kinds, and for gifts of money for help. All Protestant churches will serve as collection centers.

Gifts and material aid coming from local communities will be sent through the Oregon Council Relief Committee in cooperation with United Church Overseas Relief. This organization is a unit of Church World Service, representing all Protestant denominations. Oregon offices of the committee are in 305 Y. M. C. A. Building, Portland 4.

Members of the state committee conducting the relief drive are: M. G. Bickstaff, Myrtle Point, chairman; Dudley Strain, Salem; Miss Mabel Downs, Portland; H. C. Stover, Enterprise; Forrest Groff, Jefferson; Clark S. Enz, Dallas; Lloyd B. Thomas, Hood River; Jarrell Richardson, Ontario; Glenn A. Morton, Malin; Oscar W. Payne, Coos Bay; and Gilbert B. Christian, Field Secretary, Oregon Council of Churches.

About 6,200,000 National Service Life Insurance policies, with a matured value of more than 38 billion dollars, were in force on August 31.

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