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THE SWAN ISLAND PROJECT

The people of Portland have a right to know: That the Swan Island port project is a \$20,000,000 project or a \$40,000,000 project, not, as it is commonly known, a \$10,000,000 project. That the port bill submitted to the Oregon electorate through the initiative for vote at the November election does not embody the Swan Island project or any other port project.

That the port bill proposes to give the Port of Portland commission, without further vote or any vote exclusively by the people of the port district, authority to issue more than \$16,000,000 in port bonds. That the \$16,000,000 in port bonds proposed will be in addition to the issued portions of the \$10,500,000 in dock bonds which have been authorized by the people of Portland.

That the port bill proposes a merger of the port and dock commissions only in the event that the city of Portland exchanges the title to its dock properties for refunding bonds which the port commission by the port bill will be authorized to issue in addition to the \$16,000,000 in bonds previously referred to.

That the proposed port bill also authorizes the port commission to enter the real estate business and to buy and sell or lease properties. That under the port bill which will be on the November ballot, future vacancies in the Port of Portland commission will be filled by the Oregon legislature.

That the Swan Island project is one of great magnitude and the people, when given all the facts, must judge whether the port fortunes of the city will be advanced by its adoption in proportion greater than the cost. As to the reclamation of the Mooks bottom, Guilds lake and Swan Island districts by filling, the report of the engineer of the Committee of Fifteen, which is responsible for the so-called Swan Island project, indicates a cost of 8 cents a cubic yard. The records of the Port of Portland commission show that 8 cents a cubic yard is a modest estimate for the field work only, and that the addition of shore work, bulkheads, booster service on pipe lines and contingencies, bring the total to at least 20 cents a cubic yard and the total approximate cost of the fill to \$8,000,000. Both Tacoma and Tillamook are at the present time paying more than 20 cents a cubic yard for filling.

When the engineer of the Committee of Fifteen estimated the expense to the public of acquiring the 1522 acres embodied in the project he did the eminently proper thing of adding the assessed valuations of the several parcels and thus reached a figure of \$1,743,525 for the purchase of real estate. Now it appears that an average of \$3000 an acre would be substantially less than the owners would consider fair compensation, and that \$4,650,000 is a more practical figure to use in estimating the value of the real estate.

The owners of the Mooks bottom, Guilds lake and Swan Island districts have long held these tracts almost primarily for speculative purposes. A limited portion of this area is submerged, and, without reclamation, totally inutile. Mooks bottom has but one use. A railroad right of way traverses it, the tracks supported by a fill. Swan Island furnishes pasture for a limited number of cows. Otherwise it constitutes exclusively an obstruction to navigation. There is no prospect that the normal expansion of private industry will reach and reclaim the areas within the next half century.

It may be that the Committee of Fifteen did not realize the many ramifications of its port project and legislative programs at the time its report was submitted. Its members are all citizens of Portland who would share the financial burden involved. It is not to be expected that for themselves or the city at large they would wish to neglect a full definition of the obligation to be assumed.

HOISTING THE FLAG

There were big streetcars and little streetcars. There were big automobiles and little automobiles. And all in a hurry. There was presently a clanging of gongs and a wild honking of horns. But the semaphore was immobile. Some of the nearest sent the explanation back over their shoulders.

One of Portland's finest had forgotten his task. Standing with him on his round platform was a dainty little creature who looked as if the gentlest breeze of morning might have left her there. Her rosy mouth was asking the most routine of street directions, but her dancing eyes had him hypnotized. He was telling her that to reach the depot one went so many blocks to the left and so many to the right, but his manner was proclaiming that she was just about the neatest, sweetest bit of femininity that had ever tangled up mere men's hearstrings.

Suddenly he came back to earth. He smiled her a farewell that was every whit as gallant as the reverie of any courtier. At the same moment he set the semaphore in action. But the people waiting didn't seem to care. They couldn't. They smiled. And one of them heard, the officer mumbled, "God bless 'em; what's traffic to a pretty face?"

The man who invents an inconspicuous anchor for the posterior extension of a shirt will receive the patronage and blessings of thousands of mere men who like to throw coats, vests, suspenders and dignity aside on sweltering days.

Development of Oregon's idle acres is the chief incentive which prompted a group of Portland realty dealers to join in a movement for the organization of a farm land division of the national association of real-estate boards. Preliminary steps toward the national organization of dealers in agricultural lands were taken at the annual convention of the national association at Kansas City in June.

Fred W. German, president of the Portland realty board, is one of the board of governors of the farm land division and the movement has support of F. E. Taylor, newly elected president of the national association of real estate boards. Realtors of the middle western and eastern states are no less enthusiastic in their endorsement of the work proposed than are those of the Pacific coast.

Every year, several thousand farmers migrate from the eastern states to the west agricultural areas. The choice of farm lands has not always been guided by authentic information as to climatic and soil conditions and has often resulted in disappointment and financial loss. Personal investigation of land available for settlement requires an outlay of time and money which the average settler can ill afford, and one of the objects of the farm land division of the Realtors' association is to furnish reliable information at a minimum expense to the prospective purchaser.

Plans outlined for the farm land division require the organization of realty dealers in every county in the United States, with a central organization in each state which shall function as a clearing house of reliable information and an aid to farmers entering or leaving the state or changing location within its borders. Cooperation of the federal department of agriculture and state agricultural colleges will be urged in furnishing accurate data as to soil analysis and climate conditions.



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More or less personal. Random observations about town. Fifty Georgians, members of a McFarland tour party, will arrive August 17 and spend a day touring the city and the Columbia river highway, according to a report received by the passenger department of the O-W. Saturday morning. The party is en route from Canada to California.

While Oregonians are mopping their brows and talking about sweltering, there has been at least one man in the state who can get a shiver out of the weather of the last few days. This man is L. T. Sparks, newly appointed district freight and passenger agent of the Southern Pacific railroad at Eugene. Sparks came to the Eugene station assignment from El Centro, Cal. El Centro is in the center of the Imperial valley, close to the Mexican border. Sparks says that summer heat at El Centro is four degrees hotter than the inland regions and thinks the last few days have been delightfully cool.

Sheriff John M. Orr of Polk county is down from Dallas. He is accompanied by M. L. Boyd, editor and publisher of the Itemizer. Sheriff Orr, who has quite a reputation for discovering moonshiners still in his county, is not here on official business but to sell the grain from his big farm near Dallas. Mr. Boyd is spending the week-end with his family, who are visiting relatives at Ryan, Fla.

Dr. H. H. Schmitt of the Oregon state board of dentists is expected to leave Monday for Boston, Mass., to attend the sessions of the National Association of Dental Examiners during the week of August 21-25. He is accompanied by John M. Mann, his delegate representing the Oregon board. The national association has to do with establishing the educational standards of dental schools throughout the country.

One of the latest arrivals for Buyers' Week is James O'Neill, representing the Golden Rule store of Marysville, Wash. This is the first Buyers' Week that O'Neill has attended.

H. L. Plumb, newly appointed supervisor of the Deschutes national forest, arrived in Portland Friday to spend a day before going to Bend to inaugurate his new work. Plumb was doing field work on the Rogue river in the Siskiyou national forest, when notice of his appointment came. Just as he heard the men bearing the message yell, he ran into a yellow jacker's nest. Both he and his horse made record time getting out. Plumb will leave Friday night for Bend.

The personnel of the city council will be cut down to three men again next week, with two of the commissioners leaving Saturday for their vacations. A. L. Barbur is going to the beach for a few days. John M. Mann will spend a couple of weeks on his ranch near Bull Run. Commissioner Pier, who is now in California, will be back on Tuesday morning, but Monday will see only the mayor and Commissioner Bigelow on duty.

More and more men are coming to see that the solution of our industrial troubles and the turmoil through which the world is now passing is not more power, but more peace. The reconstruction from within—a new spirit of charity and love for others, a recognition of the brotherhood of man, irreversibly stamped upon the minds of men by other artificial boundaries. Bruce Barton describes our situation when he says: "A year has passed, and where do we stand? Europe is so badly armed that most of us no longer even read about it in the newspapers. The Orient is seething with unrest. Over here, to be sure, there is no money, but there is no war. We stand in line at the jewelry stores and crowd the avenues with our automobiles. We have everything to make us happy, apparently, except happiness. In the mind of every man there is a vague foreboding. Riches have brought us neither a sense of security nor contentment. We have gained the whole world and lost our peace of mind."

What is the cure for what ails us? Joseph Daniels, secretary of the U. S. navy, in discussing the world unrest, said recently: "The only real and permanent solution of the world's problems which seems more acute than ever since the end of the world war is the application of the Golden Rule." Germany tried the rule of force, instead of the rule of love, and who among us is so rash as to think that if Germany could turn back the clock of history six years, she would not do it? Paul Rohrbach, a well-known German writer in a recent article, said: "Before Germany is judged by foreign countries, their people must be made to understand that, even before the war, Germany was not a military Germany, but a democratic Germany. Military Germany is crushed and will not survive. Democratic Germany, however, is invulnerable."

MORE OR LESS PERSONAL

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The Oregon Country

Northwest Happenings in Brief Form for the Busy Reader. OREGON NOTES. Grass valley and Moro were visited last Sunday by a severe dust storm. Word has been sent to cities up and down the line that Albany has plenty of gasoline for tourists.

After a suspension of six months the Grande Ronde hospital at La Grande is again starting a training school for nurses. Attorney General Brown has given an opinion that banks have a legal right to cover their employees with group life insurance.

S. S. Johnson has announced himself as an independent candidate for the office of district attorney for Tillamook county. After a suspension of six months the Grande Ronde hospital at La Grande is again starting a training school for nurses.

Attorney General Brown has given an opinion that banks have a legal right to cover their employees with group life insurance. "Harry Wheeler, a sawyer in the Pwauone Box company's factory at Klamath Falls, has inherited a \$20,000 estate in Michigan through the death of his parents.

Yakima Knights of Pythias will inaugurate a drive to raise a fund to erect a \$25,000 hospital at Spokane. The Spokane County Good Roads association has expressed itself in opposition to the Curlyton bonding bill.

Frank A. Williams, Toppensville banker, has purchased a yacht at Seattle. He will use the vessel in a winter cruise off Puget. During July, Yakima streetcars carried 22,874 more cash fares and 24,491 more on tickets than for the corresponding month last year.

Considerable damage has been done by a cloudburst near Spangle. Acres of stored grain and grain in the shock were washed away. For driving his automobile at 45 miles an hour with a girl sitting on his lap, W. Mayday of Spokane has been sentenced to 24 hours in jail.

A reduction of 50 cents a head in the assessed value of livestock has been granted livestock men of Yakima county by the board of equalization. Small boys who were swimming in the Lake Washington canal formed a bucket brigade and materially aided in extinguishing a fire which destroyed a furniture factory at Ballard.

IDAHO. The harvesting of early apples has commenced in Lewiston valley. The outlook for fall apples is favorable. There are 1000 children in school in New Perce county without teachers. The average salary will be about \$115 a month.

A large porcupine was caught in the yard of the John Russell residence at Moscow. It has been caged and will be kept in a pen. The Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce has appointed a committee to make a thorough investigation of the housing problem.

Over 275 Lewiston people made the first of their annual school elections. A special train to attend the lodge reunion at Winchester lake. The bond issue for the new \$10,000 fire department building at Lewiston and construction will soon begin.

Three candidates have been filed as candidates in Latah county, one for each of the three commissioner's positions. Where Bells Don't Ring Nor Whistles Blow. By Eugene Field.

It seems to me like I'd like to go. Where bells don't ring nor whistles blow. Nor even don't talk, and that's not sound. I'd like bells still, all around.

Uncle Jeff Snow Says: If there ain't no rig in Salem fer hangin' criminal fellers the officials might toller old Jedge Lynch and take a fire. Some of the state's best women and children would do and all the closest states to witness the example.

For Worksmanship or Design None Excels the Furniture Made in Oregon. A feature which has taken second place to none of Portland's exhibits at the exposition is the exhibit of "Oregon Quality" furniture in a big building on the east side. The exhibits were distributed over four floors and included a wide variety of furniture produced locally.

FOR THE STRICKEN

The state of New York has recently purchased at a cost of \$225,000 two and one quarter grams of radium to be made available free of charge to cancer victims of the country. All sufferers from the disease, not beyond cure, will be cared for at the Institution for the Study of Malignant Disease at Buffalo, an institution established and controlled by the state of New York. It is said that Illinois may follow the example of New York.

The state has entered the fight against cancer because of the inability of most private physicians to purchase radium. Even the smallest quantity that can be purchased costs \$12,000, a figure beyond the reach of the average practitioner.

Of the use of radium in cancer cases, Dr. H. R. Gaylor, director of the institution at Buffalo, says: "The usefulness of radium in the treatment of neoplasms is still in its infancy, but there are already certain kinds of cancer in which its use offers advantages and the results obtained are an improvement upon any means we have heretofore possessed. It must, however, be remembered that our main reliance in the treatment of cancer is surgery, but radium in combination with surgery frequently greatly improves the prospect of cure."

Cancer is today the second most deadly disease in the United States, rating almost equally with tuberculosis. It increases 25 per cent every 10 years, and collected a toll of 90,000 lives last year in this country.

Purchase by the state of radium and its use in the Buffalo institution is looked upon as a big step forward in the fight to control cancer. Greater knowledge of the dread disease through research will undoubtedly lead to light means of more effectively combating it.

The pre-eminence of America in the treatment of cancer will again be brought to the fore with the inauguration of state care. The radium used is an American product, mined in Colorado, transported across the country in the form of carnotite ore to the extraction plant in New Jersey, where it is reduced by fractional crystallization. The United States has now developed the ore, its extractor and its use as a therapeutic agent.

A SEMAPHORIC EPISODE

HE IS truly one of Portland's finest. If you don't believe it spend a few minutes watching him preside over the ceaselessly vibrant traffic at one of Portland's most congested street intersections.

The Isle of Erin had something to do with his genesis. If you don't believe it note the Celtic characteristics of his countenance and see how greatly the wrinkles that are caused by smiling outnumber those that are the product of frowns.

He presides over his semaphoric like a dancing master over merry makers who trip the light fantastic toe. No, the simile is inadequate. He presides over the traffic like the prime minister orders a function of the most royal court.

One would say that nothing ever could divert him from his duty. He is as alertly alert as the crack of a whip. He passes the shuttle of his guidance through the warp and woof of traffic and the fabric he weaves is the orderly movement of business as the streets see it.

But the motorists and the streetcar men who approached his intersection from north, south, east and west the other evening found a situation they had never seen duplicated there before. Traffic was lined up in every direction.

There were big streetcars and little streetcars. There were big automobiles and little automobiles. And all in a hurry. There was presently a clanging of gongs and a wild honking of horns. But the semaphore was immobile. Some of the nearest sent the explanation back over their shoulders.

THE TRICKSTER

TO BE tricked one has only to deal with tricksters. The Standard Oil company has tricked Oregon. It has adopted a profiteer attitude on the price of gasoline. Governor Olcott and State Treasurer Hoff are quoted in The Journal as saying that the company has not violated the letter of the agreement by which the operation against it of the Oregon specific gravity law was suspended.

The law of Oregon requires that gasoline sold within the state shall have a specific gravity test of not less than 56. While other oil companies continued to serve gasoline of legal quality, the Standard Oil company represented that the fuel shortage was so acute it could serve either gasoline of 52 specific gravity or none.

In other words, the corporation having been given an inch takes a mile. It has acted without shadow of moral right. But probably neither morals nor right enter much into the policies of the organization which has not paid the \$20,000,000 fine imposed upon it by Judge Landis because of its anti-trust law violations.

The governor and the state treasurer add in their interview that the state is helpless to resist the imposition. Perhaps the official administration of the state has unwittingly placed itself in a position where it is helpless.

In point of fact, then, has not the state ceased to be a sovereign commonwealth with respect to oil? Letters From the People. Communications sent to The Journal for publication in this department should be written on one side of the paper, should not exceed 300 words, and must be signed by the writer, whose name and address in full must accompany the contribution.

ISSUE CLEARLY DRAWN. Portland, Aug. 11.—To the Editor of The Journal—Chairman Will Hays of the Republican national committee is quoted as follows: "In the electorate to endorse or repudiate the last seven years of Democratic mal-administration in Washington. The people require an accounting of the Democratic stewardship and nothing that the opposition can do to confuse the situation will prevent the demand of the people for that accounting."