

The Oregon Statesman

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A. J. Hendricks Manager Stephen A. Stone Managing Editor Ralph Glover Cashier Frank Jaskoski Manager Job Dept.

TELEPHONES: Business Office, 23 Circulation Department, 533 Job Department, 533 Society Editor, 106

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CITY, COUNTY AND SCHOOL GOVERNMENT

Editor Statesman:

The incoming legislature and the new state administration might take a few ideas from a successful and well managed local government like the city of Salem, Salem school district and the county of Marion. Many parts of the state will call us mossbacks because we have uniformly voted down tax-boosting propositions, but Salem is today the most prosperous inland city in the west. It has a greater and more prosperous future, and is growing faster than any town of 20,000 this side of the Rocky mountains. We can all take pride in the local records as shown in the following figures gathered in half an hour yesterday from the three departments referred to.

Salem city government acts under general budget law of state and all officials are under bond, but the aldermen are under the provisions of a charter enacted by the people in December, 1909, which has never been repealed:

"Any councilman voting to incur indebtedness in excess of the amount estimated or authorized (in the budget) shall, upon trial and conviction, be declared guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 and shall forfeit his office."

Under the provisions of the supreme court decisions a charter enactment takes precedence over a state law. This section has had the desired influence to keep down deficits. There has been some shifting of unused funds, but no direct deficits created in any department since that was enacted. It has also kept down levies and operating expenses, the average city levy for the past five years standing at 13 1/5

mills, and this in spite of wages and salaries of officials and city employees and labor having gone up 50 per cent over the war period. There is a bonding debt for bridges across the Willamette, city hall and sewers, of about \$350,000, but the city is kept on a cash basis and does not owe a dollar and has money to run until April 1, when new taxes come in. New street construction, paving and grading, sewers and alleys are done by the street department at cost to the owners, with 20 per cent added for overhead administration, such as engineers, collecting, book-keeping, etc. Bridges are built by the same department at cost of labor and material. Bids are taken on all supplies and machinery for all departments and awarded to the lowest responsible bidder. City has paid off debt in 1922.

It might interest you to know that our school district is on a cash basis. It operates under the general budget law and cannot exceed its appropriations over 6 per cent without a vote of the people. The clerk-treasurer, one official, is under bonds. It has a bonded debt of \$104,275, having paid off \$45,000 in ten years besides building new school-houses. Two years ago the district had \$75,000 floating debt and today it has \$40,000 surplus cash on hand, and without exceeding the 6 per cent limitation plans to pay off \$10,000 a year of bonded debt. New school-houses are built without bond issues but by spreading the levy for the same over three years. The district is growing fast and to relieve the suburban schools \$100,000 may be spent on two wings for the high school, \$50,000 to double the capacity of the Gar-

field school, and \$350,000 for a new Washington junior high school.

Marion county has been on a cash basis for 20 years and has never exceeded the budget limit but once, and then it was sued and had to refund. Taxes for strictly county purposes have not been raised in ten years and salaries have not been raised but once, the county judge getting \$1800 instead of \$1500. Pauper expenses feeble-minded expenses and costs of wages and material have gone up nearly 100 per cent since 1913. The only bonded debt was voted by the people, \$850,000 for market roads. The county spends \$600,000 a year on roads. The school districts in Marion county owe \$301,895 bonded debt June 19, 1922, but no increase in past year. This county does a great deal of construction work by the county, and only contracts when contractors can do it cheaper. For instance, gravel and road building material is let to the lowest bidder on advertised specifications. All office supplies are also advertised for and let to the lowest bidder. The county officials have cement mixers and other road building equipment built in local plants, and say they can get better products. They bought ten Federal trucks by advertising for bids, and found the price was cut down so the manufacturers tried to get out of supplying the trucks. Buffalo

Pitts road rollers are the only kind used. When buying they found that while they could buy them for \$3250 some other cities were paying as high as \$3500, on the theory that this firm would not cut its price. Generally speaking this county has not been able to draw specifications so that in taking bids the lowest bidder was apt to supply inferior machinery.

We are very proud of our city, school and county governments. In the city we have raised salaries, and also with school teachers, but in the county, with one exception, we are paying the same as we were ten years ago. We have not had to shove taxes up, because increasing valuations in city and county have taken care of some of it. For its conservative policies our city and county are reaping the harvest and are very prosperous. The state government and the legislature have boosted taxes and the people have voted new taxes, but Marion county is called mossback because we have voted down all such propositions except market roads. There is a great deal of building going on, a great deal more in prospect. We are an open shop town, carpenters and mechanics exact the scale from the state and on public work, but all other work is done at all kinds of wages, based more on the skill of the workers than on union rules.

—TAXPAYER.

The Statesman is proud to print the above communication. It shows that, while we are growing and expanding in every material way, and keeping up to date in every progressive particular, we are keeping our feet on the ground— Keeping in condition to continue the growth. We can confidently invite new people and new capital in the hands of men of vision and initiative and genius, to come and participate in the safe development of the surrounding country of wonderful resources and possibilities—the country of diversity—the land of opportunity—and in the solid rearing here of a greater and ever greater Salem, supplying the manufacturing, marketing, shipping, banking and other facilities of the potentially richest district of this state, this nation, or of this world.

Even a Republican ought to be able to be thankful the last Thursday of November. Everything might be a lot worse.—Los Angeles Times.

Premier Mussolini writes that he hopes for the best of feeling between the United States and Italy. They all coddle up to Uncle Sam.

"I should hate to give up the West for the White House," said ex-Secretary McAdoo the other day, but he had his fingers crossed when he said it.—Exchange.

Barney Baruch says there is no need of a third party, but that he intends to remain a Democrat. It

must be admitted that Barney has done fairly well in that role.

It is claimed there is enough energy falling on one square mile of the Sahara desert to operate every machine in the world today. Which Sahara do the scientists mean, the one in Africa or the one in these dear old United States?—Exchange.

A number of statesmen who are in their graves but who assisted in the births of third parties have turned over several times since the announcement of Senator Borah that there ought to be a third party in this country.

FUTURE DATES

November 27, 28 and 29—Marion county teachers institute, Salem. November 30—Thanksgiving dinner at Salem Heights Community hall. November 30, Thursday—Thanksgiving day. December 2, Saturday—Bazaar, St. Paul's Church, 500 Commercial. December 14, 15 and 16—Marion county corn show. December 12, Tuesday—School budget meeting at high school. December 13 and 16, Friday and Saturday—Meeting of fruit growers at Woodburn. December 3, Sunday—Elks' annual memorial service. December 8, Friday—Reunion of Company M. December 25, Monday—Christmas. December 31, Sunday—E. J. "Midnight Puller," Grand theater. January 8, Monday—Inauguration of Governor-elect Walter M. Pierce. January 9, Monday—Legislature meets.

Develop the flax industry at the Oregon penitentiary, and it will cease to be a penitentiary. It will be a reformatory of the best and most modern type.

The vaudeville season will open with a rush in Chicago the coming spring—Jim Ham Lewis is coming back from Europe to make the race for mayor.

Why do not those congressmen who are pure pig iron from the thorax up, who stand on their hind legs and yell against the administration ship subsidy bill, get up one of their own—or get some pupil from one of the Washington grade schools who has sense enough for the task, to do so? If the voters of the congressional districts claiming these varnishes are satisfied with their antics, they are surely patient and long suffering. If the bunch making the motions of statesmen in the capitol at Washington have not sense enough, or patriotism enough, or vision enough, to keep the Stars and Stripes from being driven from the seven seas, there should surely be a new deal of the political deck. And it would not matter much about its tags. Anything would be better than a crowd who would permit the sacrifice of what ships the United States now has, and refuse to enact legislation that would guarantee the building and operation of still more ships in our present pitiful merchant marine.

The idle men alone at the Oregon penitentiary, walking around in the bull pen for exercise, are capable of earning enough money to pay the expenses of the whole institution, in the making of twine from flax fiber for the use of the fishermen on the Columbia river, for their nets—and the fishermen are crying for pure Oregon flax fiber twine for their nets. While supporting the institution, these now idle men ought to be receiving wages of 25 cents to \$1 a day, for the benefit of their people on the outside, or for a stake for themselves when released; and at the same time learning habits of industry and the principles of most useful trades, through which they may when their terms shall have expired become of great value in developing on the outside the greatest industry in Oregon—the linen industry; for that is what it is bound to become; and the sooner the better. The men who are now idle do not want to be idle. They are willing to work. They are mostly young and strong and willing to be industrious. It is a crime, a ten-fold crime, to keep them in idleness. Especially when all the above may be accomplished without a cent of cost to the taxpayers—but, on the contrary, with great relief to the taxpayers.

The soviet government in Russia has an ingenious plan for stabilizing the ruble and reducing the national obligations. Without saying anything to anybody the printers of the paper rubles have been leaving off the last cipher on the larger notes. The former 1,000,000-ruble note is really but for 100,000 rubles. The people don't know the difference. The man who sells you a pair of shoestrings will take a note for 100,000 rubles in careless confidence that it is one of the 1,000,000-ruble bills to which he is accustomed. This is a part of the new financial program of the soviet regime. The government is reducing its indebtedness by the ingenious process of knocking off the ciphers. If they can keep this up they may be able to reduce the obligation to \$4. By that time Trotsky can pay it.

A baby was born in Minnesota the other day with the heart on the right side. This kid may run for president some day on a League of Nations platform.—Exchange.

In Southern California it is possible to spoon in the public parks the whole year round. This makes a strong appeal to the young tourists from the east.—Los Angeles Times.

BITS FOR BREAKFAST

Thanksgiving is late— But better late than never. Do you remember when Oregon had two Thanksgiving days? President Cleveland named the fourth Thursday in November and Governor Penoyer of Oregon named the fifth and last. There were five Thursdays in November of that year. Some fortunate ones had turkey and cranberry sauce twice. But turkeys were cheaper in those good old days.

The wise child is already telling what it really needs for Christmas.

Recipe for cooking the Thanksgiving turkey—first get your turkey, etc.

If a Salem friend understands the situation at Doorn, Mrs. Hohenzollern is the kaiserin and William is the paiser out.

Ambassador Harvey says that women have no souls, but who is bold enough to intimate that men have wings?

The way it is now, 150 to 200 men are supported by the taxpay-

ers in sheer idleness at the Oregon penitentiary. The way it will be when the flax industry is properly developed, the men will work and earn wages and support the whole institution. This is no idle dream. It will come to pass if the industry is allowed to function. And the industry will pay for its machinery and tools, too, to the last cent, and pile up a surplus that will mount ever higher.

Raspberries. Slogan subject for tomorrow. Important. If you can help the Slogan editor, do so. Today.

With the abolition, except under certain conditions, of army

salutes we shall note a heavy clump in the demand for second lieutenants' commissions.

It used to be that the pedestrian was kept on the jump dodging the bicycle, now it is the fast moving automobile. But that was a long time ago.

An expert is experimenting on the production of featherless chickens. They ought to be just the thing in the tornado belt.

Why? Suffer? Monthly pains, neuralgic, sciatic and rheumatic pains, headache, backache and all other aches are quickly relieved by **Dr. Miles' Anti-Pain Pills**. Contain no dangerous habit-forming drugs. Why don't you try them? Ask your druggist.



Strongheart the wonder dog

Only pure virgin rubber in Gold Seal Boots!

Do you know what pure virgin virgin rubber is? It is new, lively, elastic rubber that has never been used or worked before.

Since the seventies we have been making Gold Seal boots from this wonderful, resilient and springy rubber. We use a special process of manufacture—a process that has never been duplicated. Our boots have indeed stood the test of time.

Gold Seal boots never look "all tuckered out." Their surface is never honeycombed with the little cracks which are the forerunners of big cracks. Gold Seal boots are crack proof!

You can feel and see that Gold Seal rubber footwear is good

It's as easy to tell there's no shoddy, reclaimed rubber or substitutes in Gold Seal boots as it is to tell the difference between a cheap scratch pad and smoothly-finished book paper. You can just feel the quality!

Goodyear Gold Seal boots will outwear ordinary boots. You will find them in good stores all up and down the Pacific Coast in various weights and heights. Those who are out of doors wear Gold Seal oiled clothing, too.

We are the original and only **GOODYEAR RUBBER CO.** Portland and San Francisco. No connection with any other firm using the name "Goodyear"

Goodyear GOLD SEAL BOOTS Authorized since the 70's to use the name of Charles Goodyear, inventor of vulcanizing



Only one Gold Seal trademark—it's round and gold colored. There is only one genuine Gold Seal label. It is your guarantee of pure virgin rubber. Look for it.



Goodyear GOLD SEAL BOOTS

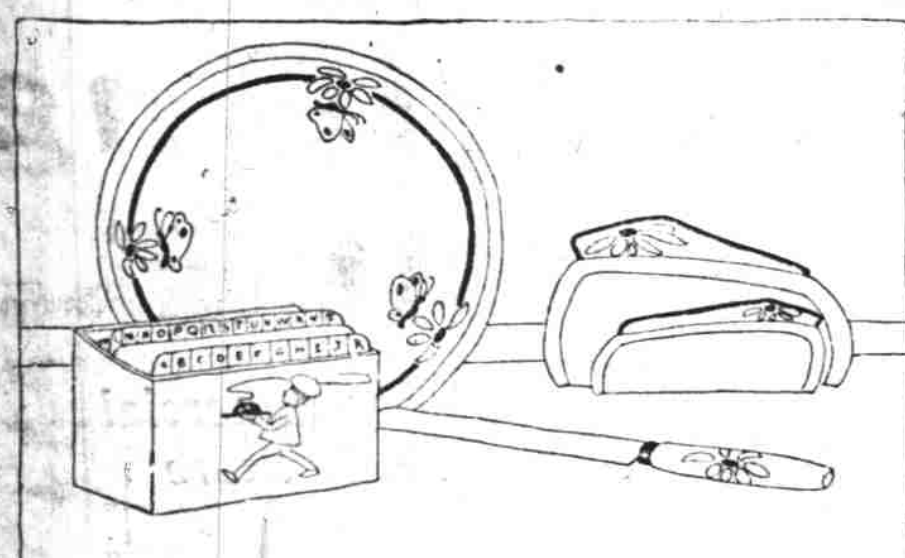
This store will be closed all day Thanksgiving

Watch papers for important announcement **MILLER'S** Salem's Leading Department Store

The Junior Statesman

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Paint-Brush Presents



GIFTS MOTHER WILL LIKE A recipe box for mother will please her so much more if some of your own work has gone into the making of it. The little cabinet at the left of the picture is just an ordinary wooden file box for recipe cards. It is more attractive and much handier than a cook book. This, as well as the other gifts, is painted with enamel or sealing wax paints. The sealing wax paints you can make yourself by buying sealing wax sticks in yellow, blue, black and white. Break each stick into three or four pieces, place in a small cup, and cover with denatured alcohol. Let the mixture stand overnight and by morning the paints are ready to use. Make them the right thickness by adding a little more alcohol.

Make Over a Crumb Tray A white enameled crumb tray may be beautifully made over with your paints. The edge of the handle is painted black. The petals should be yellow edged with black, with the centers black. If you had to buy any of these hand-painted gifts, they would cost more than most girls can make their pocketbooks cover at Christmas time, but if you like to work with paints you can make dainty presents with very little expense. The sealing wax costs about eight cents a stick, and the articles to be painted can be purchased at any variety store. (Next week: A Dresser Set.)

THE SHORT STORY, JR. JEANNETTE'S ALLOWANCE All my life I have wanted an

allowance. Dad is rather strict and old-fashioned, though, and he said he would rather I'd come to him when I wanted money. He really is a dear and almost always gives me what I ask for, but just the same I thought it would be nicer to have an allowance, so this fall I brought up the subject again.

I was surprised when mother took my part. "Yes, Charles," she said, "now that Jeannette is in high school I believe it would be a good thing to give her an allowance."

"All right," Dada agreed. "I guess maybe she is old enough now. I'll give her five dollars a week."

I thought Dad was very generous. I knew I had never asked for that much spending money in a week. "But, you'll have to save it and buy all your Christmas presents yourself," he added.

"Oh, of course," I cried, "why I can buy my own clothes on \$20 a month."

Dad only said, "We'll see," and looked at mother. He paid me my first week's allowance right away. I had never had a whole five dollar bill to spend in any way I choose before. I called up Lillian and we decided to go down town. Lillian asked her father for the price of a movie—she doesn't have an allowance yet.

I was feeling so rich that I told her I would treat her. Then I bought some candy and nuts, and, as Lillian still had the money her father had given her and I had more than I knew what to do with, we decided we would go out to the park for a little while. I was surprised when we left the park to discover that I had only two dollars and fifteen cents left. A poor cripple was on the corner, so I gave him the fifteen cents and went home with just \$2.00.

That would have kept me going perfectly well for the rest of the week, but the very next day Miss Clark announced that we would have to have a new history book, and the price—\$2.05. I told mother, and

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PICTURE PUZZLE



Below is the name of the children's poet and one of his poems

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