

# The Oregon Statesman

Issued Daily Except Monday by  
**THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY**  
 215 South Commercial St., Salem, Oregon

**W. H. Henderson** - Circulation Manager  
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**TELEPHONES:**  
 Business Office 23 or 583 Job Department 583  
 Society Editor 106 New Department 23 or 106 Circulation Office 583

Entered at the Post Office in Salem, Oregon, as second-class matter.

February 25, 1927

Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Math. 7:17-18.

## FAR REACHING

The Slogan editor of The Statesman at times thinks he has a thankless job—

Until he runs across an incident like this, which happens more than occasionally:

The manager of a great linen manufacturing concern, 1000 years or so old, in Europe, has written a letter to Col. W. B. Bartrum, field man for the state flax plant, telling him that there has fallen into his hands a copy of the Oregon Statesman of Oct. 28 last (the flax Slogan number), and making most favorable comment on the matter therein, including a contribution of Col. Bartrum—

And giving such information that, if published, would make even the most rabid flax bug here think better of the great future for the flax and linen industries in the Salem district.

We are getting a fair start here now in these industries; but it is only a start, and small compared with the wonderful things of the future; and perhaps not a far distant future.

## WE MUST HAVE MINES

The Industrial News Bureau of E. Hofer & Sons, Salem, makes the following comment:

"The donor of a large cash prize for a recent long distance swim, in presenting it to the winner, is quoted as saying, 'Don't invest in mines.' What he evidently inferred was, 'Do not speculate in mines or oil or orchard companies or automobile plants or a thousand and one other glittering schemes to 'double your money.' It is an injustice to one of our great industries that the term 'mining' has become synonymous with get-rich-quick schemes to bleed the credulous of their savings. As a matter of fact, any banker can point out investments in bonds or stocks of mining companies that are considered as safe as those in most any of our other industries. Speculation and investment are as widely separated in mining as in anything else. But the world must have mines; thousands have failed on farms and in factories to every mine failure. Mines found, developed, and still greatly maintain the west. An honest mine is still like any other industry—as necessary and as safe."

The comment is appropriate and to the point— And the people of Salem will before long realize this; for there is going forward in the section that will one day be a great mining region at Salem's front door, developments that will make the whole mining world sit up and take notice. Salem is to be known as a mining center, along with being a center of some 52 other varieties of activities.

Talking about this legislature. Every legislature has been abused. At least every Oregon legislature. And it is true of the legislatures of other states. Abuse is their common heritage. But the fact is that there are some big men in this legislature; able men; honest men; earnest men. And the average is high. And when all is said and done, even the detractors would not have done better.

Abraham Lincoln was a member of the Illinois legislature. The members voted themselves more pay. A farmer constituent of Lincoln berated him roundly when he arrived home. "What did you do it for? What on earth did you do it for?" demanded the irate farmer. "Oh, I guess we did it because we need the money," replied honest Abe.

## HOBSON'S CHOICE

(Journal of Commerce, New York.)

As so often happens in American politics, the outcome of the long drawn struggle over our merchant marine appears to be simply that of presenting to the public another "Hobson's choice." Specifically the community must decide whether it wants to pay a shipping subsidy or prefers to have a government owned fleet which is indefinitely to be operated at a loss. It has taken a good while to get the alternative as clear cut as this, but now there can be hardly any doubt of the way that the subject is presented.

While it is admitted that nothing will be done at this session of congress, the forecasts of competent observers indicate that at the beginning of the next session a definite drive will be made to secure the adoption of the shipping measure which Senator Jones has drafted. This measure will call for continued operation of vessels by the shipping board, the organization being forbidden to sell any ship if in its judgment the maintenance of a merchant marine can be helped by government ownership. Alternative to this is the adoption of a subsidy plan which Senator Jones has drafted and has introduced in conjunction with the government ownership proposal. Under this scheme, that cash subsidies would be paid to vessels running on regular routes, in proportion to tonnage and speed. The subsidy bill would be practically the same plan that has made its appearance so many times before, while the government ownership proposal alternative to it would be merely the maintenance and expansion of the state of things which has existed under the shipping board, but on a permanent basis. The pretense of trying to sell the ships and go out of the shipping business would be abandoned and in place of it there would be established a permanent government owned fleet.

Experience shows that the government owned fleet has always been operated at a loss, and under prevailing conditions probably always will be. There is no reason to expect that the situation could be particularly improved upon but, on the contrary, every ground for thinking that as government management grows older it will grow less rather than more efficient. In proportion to tonnage owned and miles run, the losses will be greater, just as in proportion to larger size and greater distance traveled, a larger subsidy would be paid. It seems as if congress were absolutely determined to fine the Ameri-

can taxpayer every time that a ship got up steam or spread a sail. It ought not to be necessary to say that neither of these schemes is in the interest of the shipping community or is desired by it. Continuous unfair competition with the government owned fleet which has the treasury to fall back upon when it does not make ends meet is not a very pleasing prospect for the average ship owner. Subsidy payments of the kind prescribed by Senator Jones would be a poor substitute for the rectification of our merchant marine laws. Why is it too much to ask that our shipping be given a chance to show what it can do and that it be allowed to develop itself on a fair basis of competition with the foreign marines against which it must contend for business? It is only by giving this amount of latitude to our vessel owners that we shall ever have a mercantile marine worthy of the name.

The editorial writer in the New York Journal of Commerce quoted above is more than half right—

And it is not conceivable that the law makers at Washington, or a majority of them, will continue to make a monkey of Uncle Sam—

Will force a "Hobson's Choice" of the two schemes that have only the promise of forever making even an inefficient and inadequate American merchant marine a great charge upon the United States treasury; and a continually increasing charge.

And this in face of the fact that our own history teaches plainly that there is another choice; a perfect choice—

And that is a preferential duty in favor of goods carried in American bottoms. This was the policy that in the 61 years up to 1850 built up a great American merchant marine, with the Stars and Stripes floating in every world port.

The same policy will do the identical thing again. And it is the only policy that will do it, without rendering injustice to any single interest.

How long will stupidity (and worse) rule at Washington, in relation to this vital matter that concerns every person in this country?

## Bits For Breakfast

May get through today—

The Oregon legislators. But you never can tell; and this goes for juries, the weather and the legislature.

"The Flaming Forest," by Curwood, outstanding outdoors play-wright, on at the Capitol theater for the last times today, is a great play. It is comparable to "The Covered Wagon." It is historical, of the Canadian west, with the Mounted Police taking a leading part.

Along with "The Flaming Forest," the Oregon fire warden's department is putting on striking screen pictures, tending to make those who see it think more of being careful in the timber in vacation time. It is appropriate and valuable.

Happiness is that indifference to happiness that is the reward of being busy.

John D. Rockefeller gave away a whole handful of shiny dimes a few days ago. Wonder if that is the reason the Wheeling & Lake Erie railroad stock went wild?

Pillow fights have a bad effect on juvenile nerves, an eastern college's home economics classes have discovered. Legislators, there's your chance.

Babe Ruth demanded a higher contract; says he's worth more than Cobb or Speaker. Maybe he was before Judge Landis helped them along with all that publicity.

## NEW RADIO LAW BRINGS RELIEF

(Continued from page 1.) operation. Every station owner who desires to operate after the 60-day period must apply to the commission for new license, and should do so within the 60 days."

## NEW FACE PUT ON NICARAGUAN AFFAIRS

(Continued from page 1.) ing the day heard behind closed doors state department information as to Nicaragua. It was made available by Secretary Kellogg and delivered by Stockley Morgan, chief of the latin-American division, and formerly American charge at Managua. American action on the Borah resolution was deferred, the committee inquiry to continue tomorrow. In addition to sending Morgan as his representative, Mr. Kellogg wrote Mr. Borah indicating approval of the administration disapproval of the Idaho senator's plan. When the committee has "exhausted the informational resources" of the state department which he placed at its disposal, the secretary said, it would be in a better position to decide whether it is proper for the senate to send an independent committee of investigation into foreign countries with which the executive is conducting difficult and delicate negotiations."

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—(AP)—The communication regarding Nicaragua, handed to Under Secretary Grew at the state department today by Sir Esme Howard, the British ambassador, follows: "I have the honor to inform you, on instructions from his majesty's principal secretary of state for foreign affairs, that his majesty's government has reluctantly decided to send a man-of-war to the west coast of Nicaragua and the west coast of Colombia is being dispatched to Corinto. She should

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## DISCHARGE TWO MEN AND PRAISE ANOTHER

(Continued from page 1.)

mission could not do legally. "Hayes and Eakin encouraged, ordered and directed deputy fish wardens in the employ of the commission to use their time in promoting the passage of the fish wheel bill which was on the ballot at the last November election. Their expenses connection with this promotion work were paid out of the funds of the fish commission in spite of the advice of Mr. Veach that the commission had no legal right or authorization to expend its money in this manner.

"Both Mr. Hayes and Mr. Eakin displayed a woeful lack of knowledge of the duties of the fish commission. The law plainly sets forth what the duties of the fish commissioner are and they are many and complex. Yet Mr. Hayes after serving as commissioner for more than a year and a half, apparently was wholly unfamiliar with these duties.

"It appeared from the testimony that Edison I. Ballagh was appointed master fish warden on the vote of Commissioners Veach and Hayes some time during the summer of 1925. It further appeared that he was discharged from the office on December 16, 1926 by the vote of Commissioners Eakin and Hayes. Commissioner Veach protested against the removal of Mr. Ballagh.

"The reason assigned for Mr. Ballagh's discharge by the two commissioners was that he had failed to cooperate with the commission. It appeared from the testimony that Mr. Hayes had operated as a fish dealer in Tillamook county for sometime after the season opened without having obtained a license therefor.

"When the license was finally obtained it was issued on an application which was not in proper form. According to the provisions of the law all dealers and packers must take out a license and place with the commission a bond guaranteeing the payment of poundage fee of one-half cent per pound on each and every pound of fish purchased by the dealer and packer.

"The bond furnished by Mr. Hayes was not signed by either of the persons who were supposed to be sureties, but the signatures thereon appeared in the affidavit attached to the application and bond, showing that the party supposed to sign the bond was the owner of real property valued two times in excess of the amount of the bond required.

"It further appeared that Mr. Hayes was in arrears for more than 14 months on account of poundage fees due the state, and had made no effort to pay the same. Mr. Ballagh then began to press him for the payment of these fees and wrote him numerous letters. It developed that no money had been paid on this poundage account amounting to nearly \$500 up to the time of the beginning of this hearing, except that a few days prior thereto, Mr. Hayes assigned to the fish commission a claim of his expenses amounting to \$127.90 which he had due him from the commission itself on account of traveling and per diem.

"The committee believes there is some relationship existing between Mr. Hayes determination to discharge Mr. Ballagh and Mr. Ballagh's insistent demands that Mr. Hayes pay his poundage fees. "It also appeared from the evidence that Mr. Eakin wholly unauthorized by the fish commission used and caused to be used by others an automobile belonging to the fish commission. This auto-

mobile was in Astoria until sometime in November, 1926. When it was returned it was in bad shape and a large repair bill was authorized to put it in good running condition. It appears further that Mr. Eakin was likewise unfamiliar with his duties as fish commissioner and admitted that he did not know anything about fish. He testified that the discharge of Mr. Ballagh was for lack of cooperation. He was called upon to specify and was unable to give any substantial proof.

"Mr. Eakin, without any warrant or authority of law, and without authorization from the fish commission, and without consulting other members of the commission, employed an attorney to make a trip to Bremerton with one of the employes of the fish commission to investigate the purchase of a boat from the Bremerton navy yards by a former water fish warden of the fish commission.

"In this connection, your committee does not pass upon the good faith or lack of good faith involved in this illegal employment, but merely finds that regardless of the purposes and objects sought, the same was contrary to the law. Neither does the committee find any wrong doing on the part of the attorney.

"During the course of the investigation certain charges concerning the purchase of a boat were made against a former fish warden. In this connection your committee did not investigate said charges, and the testimony given in respect thereto was insufficient upon which to base a finding. Further, your committee felt that a detailed investigation of such charges was beyond the scope of the authority of the committee under the senate resolution appointing the committee."

The report was signed by Senators Norblad, Butler, Carsner and Banks. Senator Beals refused to concur in the report. The report will be filed with the senate this morning.

## THE SALEM RABBIT BREEDERS' MEETING

A very interesting meeting of the rabbit breeders of the Salem district will be held in the chamber of commerce auditorium Saturday evening, February 26, at 7:30 p. m. The committee on constitution and by laws will submit their report for adoption and the president of the Oregon State Chinchilla Breeders' association has been invited to address the meeting, and he will discuss the rabbit meat marketing question, also the possibilities of building up such a market in Portland and other Oregon cities. Other matters of interest to rabbit breeders will be discussed, among which will be prospective markets for rabbit pelts and furs and other kindred subjects. All those interested in rabbits are invited to attend. The call of the meeting is by Harold Ellis, secretary-treasurer.

## PIONEER TEAMS COMING

The Woodburn Pioneer club basketball team will come to Salem Saturday for a game on the YMCA floor against the Penn Pioneer club quintet of this city. A team from the Silverton Pioneer club will play another group of local Pioneers.

Woodburn—Fruit Growers' cooperative did \$190,550 business in 1926.

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## POSTPONE FILING TRANSCRIPT BILL

Regulation of Paving Materials Meets With Little Favor in House

Yesterday morning's session in the house was devoted to action on senate bills. Considerable time was spent in discussion on senate bill 237 by Senators Miller and Dunne and Messrs. Carkin and Briggs providing for the filing of transcripts on appeal to the supreme court. It was mostly a clash between attorneys, some contending that under the present law there is ample time to prepare the transcript in cases of appeal and others that there was not.

Messrs. Lewis and Winslow said that the bill would change the whole method in case of appeals, which should not be done, as the law is alright as it is.

Messrs. Lonergan and Hamilton stated that there was no important change in the law, only concerning the time.

Mr. Briggs, one of the authors of the bill, probably thought that conditions were not favorable for the passage of his bill, and on his motion the measure was placed at the end of the calendar.

Representative Lonergan attempted to have the adverse report of the committee on counties and cities on senate bill 286 laid aside and the bill put on the calendar yesterday was unsuccessful. The measure relates to the reg-

ulation and use of patented materials, mixtures and processes for road construction. The bill would exempt cities and towns from the law.

Mr. Winslow, chairman of the committee, said that his committee reported the bill back that it did not pass because it was simply in favor of a certain form of patented pavement.

Mr. Lewis thought the bill ought to go on the calendar and be passed, giving all sorts of pavement a chance to compete.

Mr. Giesy commented on the bill shortly, saying that it was not worth taking much of the house's time. He contended that the cities which were left unprotected under this law were not asking that their protection be removed.

## DANCERS' CLOTHES HELD

Officers Arrest Girls on Charge of Demoralizing Young

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Feb. 24.—Police tonight arrested the specialty dancers at two Milwaukee burlesque theaters and confiscated the costume of each, on charges of violating the city ordinance concerning the "scenes demoralizing to the young."

Managers of each theater asserted the girls would continue their acts.

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