

I keep silence about many things, for I do not want to put people out of countenance; and I am well content if they are pleased with things that annoy me.—Goethe.

A City Manager for Salem

It took a tidal wave at Galveston to subject the traditional mayor-council type of city government to critical examination. In the face of that great disaster the old government was paralyzed and did nothing. An emergency commission of business men took charge and under its direction the city was rebuilt. The restored city could see no reason to go back to the old order.

The new form of city government was adopted by many other cities and quickly won approval from students of government. The new government had the advantage of centralizing responsibility. When corruption was rampant the public could put a firm hand down on five men and feel them squirm, while under the old system the mayor blamed the council and it blamed the mayor. The council, if cornered, blamed its committees and so the buck was passed with consummate skill until the public had something else to think about.

Under the new system men were put on a salary to handle the city government as their business and not as an incidental thing crowded into their spare moments as under the council type. Improvements followed in every city which adopted the commission form. Governmental costs were reduced and greater efficiency secured, but the millennium in civic affairs did not dawn. Political scientists went to work to discover why the maximum of expected improvement was not realized. They soon found it.

Under the theory of the commission form the commissioners individually are experts heading a highly specialized and technical department of government while collectively they formulate public policies. Analysis of city personnel in many different cities showed that the commissioners were largely the same men who held office under the old regime and were not the expected experts. It is seldom that men who are large enough to be trusted by the citizens to formulate public policy are in position to accept a full time job as a commissioner at the salary usually paid, especially in view of the expense and uncertainty of appeal for election at the hands of the electorate. So commission governments are often in charge of rather mediocre men who accomplish more than they would under the mayor-council type because they have better working conditions.

What was to be tried next? Nowhere was the voice of any recognized student of government raised for a return to the discredited mayor-council form. The council-manager type was offered as a solution. Under this system the electorate selects a small group of representative citizens, who constitute the policy forming body in city affairs. They are limited to stating policies and selecting a responsible administrator, called a city manager, to execute them. Such a manager can be paid an adequate salary to secure an executive of large caliber and the range of selection is nation wide.

This man has full charge of the executive work of the city, with ample authority to control his subordinates. He can select his staff from men who are qualified to do their work and is not dependent upon the glad-handers who have been elected to office regardless of their qualifications. As long as the manager does his work successfully he is left alone. If he fails it is up to the council to find someone who can do it. The plan is simply the way of every great corporation. The electorate corresponds to the stockholders, the council is the board of directors and the city manager is the general manager of the business. The experience of every city which has tried it shows it works for the city as efficiently as it does for business.

Salem, being some miles from the sea, has not had a tidal wave to wake it up, and it has had no fearful abuses in government because it has been served by a high type of citizen. But Salem, which has done remarkably well under the antiquated mayor-council form of government, will do better under the council-manager type. The city is growing and its problems will be increasingly complex. It deserves the best civic machinery that can be furnished.

How The Ocean Flyers Died

WHAT are the last moments of an unsuccessful ocean flight like? What is the nature of the final tragedy in mid-ocean darkness?

A lot of us have tried to picture it, since the disappearance of Nungesser and Gougeon and the others who were lost at sea. Now comes Commander Richard E. Byrd's book, "Skyward," to tell us.

Byrd's plane, you remember, came down in the water off the French coast. If it had not been close to land Byrd and his three companions undoubtedly would have drowned. Byrd gives a graphic description of the crash.

The plane hit the water with terrific force. He was dazed by the blow; a moment later he found himself swimming around in the water. Noville discovered climbing out of a window of the sinking plane; Acosta and Balchen appeared a moment later, swimming near the wreckage.

Fortunately, they were able to get ashore. But that account of the wreck gives us an understanding of what the last moments of other less fortunate aviators must have been like.

Under orders of the metropolitan commissioner, London police are forbidden to chew gum while on duty. Is this an English slam against Americans?

London railway porters are protesting feminine styles. Women wear so little clothes that they need no trunks and are able to carry their own bags. What are honest bag luggers to do?

New York clothiers are worrying how they can make men more "clothes-conscious." We should think that New York summer weather would solve their problem.

On Farm Relief

THE Oregonian of yesterday, under the heading, "The Simplest Way," says, among other things: "Mr. Hoover summarizes the proposals of the republican platform as pledging the party 'especially to build up with federal finance farmer owned and farmer controlled stabilization corporations which will protect the farmer from the depressions and demoralization of seasonal gluts and periodical surpluses.'"

"The plan is to do through co-operatives what the McNary-Haugen bill would have done through a huge federal bureau for assessment, collection and disbursement of an equalization fee on each unit of a crop where there was a surplus. A federal revolving fund of several hundred million dollars would provide capital under both plans, but the Jardine plan, which is in substance that approved in the republican platform, requires payment of interest, while the last version of the McNary-Haugen bill does not. As the farm leaders desire surplus control 'without government subsidy,' they should prefer the Jardine plan, for it grants a loan, not a subsidy or gift."

If what the Oregonian says in the above two paragraphs is the correct interpretation of what the republican platform means, then it favors the McNary-Haugen idea rather than the Jardine plan.

For the McNary-Haugen idea is to not have any government subsidy at all, but to make the different farm groups producing major crop surpluses provide in the equalization fees the funds to pay or guarantee against losses on products sold abroad.

If the Jardine plan calls for interest, who is to pay the interest? And who is to guarantee the United States treasury against losses (and thus a government subsidy), unless there is an equalization fee, paid by the members of each farm group receiving the benefit of higher prices? The fact is, the original Jardine plan was for the government to take or risk the losses, with the belief in the mind of Mr. Jardine, secretary of agriculture, that there would be no losses in the operation of his plan over a series of years.

Which other people have doubted; which Senator McNary, co-author of the McNary-Haugen proposal, doubts.

"Taking wheat as an example, about 75 per cent of the crop would be sold at home, 25 per cent for export price," says the Oregonian. At first, it would be more nearly 90 per cent sold at home and 10 per cent "for export price."

There would be a tendency for the proportion of the home sales to increase and the foreign to decrease, for the population of the United States is growing and will grow fast. It will not be long till no McNary-Haugen idea, nor any Jardine plan, will be needed, for we will have no major farm surpluses. We will be using all we produce. The protective tariff will be sufficient. The only use of either a McNary-Haugen idea or a Jardine plan is to render the protective tariff operative, against foreign competition.

The Oregonian writer goes on at length in an involved argument in favor of the farmer-owned and controlled corporations, backed by government money—but in the mass of the argument it says: "There would be no direct assessment of a fee against each bushel of wheat or corn, each bale of cotton, or each pound of pork, but in the final settlement for each crop year the cost of handling the surplus would be distributed just as equitably as by the levy of a fee, which would actually be a tax."

That is clear—it is just the same thing by another name. Somebody must pay the fee, or the tax. You may chafe the simple thing "all around Robin Hood's barn," but it comes back to this.

The McNary-Haugen people simply called a spade a spade. All the rest of the farm groups and experts have merely sought and are still seeking to take the curse off of the spade by calling it a farm implement, or some other name.

Any way, Mr. Hoover promises farm relief, and he will see that it is provided. And he will get to the point in the most equitable way possible; or several ways. He mentions a few of them in his acceptance speech, and he will likely further explain during the campaign.

And, better still, he will act when he becomes president.

Women Find Better Jobs

YOU know, of course, that there was a tremendous increase in the number of American women who worked for their living between 1910 and 1920. Don't you?

Well, you're mistaken. The Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor reveals that the increase in the number of women workers in that decade was the smallest in 50 years.

What really happened was that the number of women in some jobs increased enormously, while the number of women in other jobs decreased. Women servants, for instance, declined in number about 14 per cent, while the shrinkage in the number of women in agricultural work was even greater. On the other hand, the number of women in professions increased 39 per cent, while women in clerical work increased 140 per cent.

Nearly as many women were earning their own living 15 years ago as now, but they were doing it in less pleasant and remunerative ways.

THE Bureau of Railway Economics, at Washington, reveals that rail shipments of fresh fruits and vegetables have practically doubled in the last ten years. The increase is due largely to improvements in methods of transportation of such perishable commodities.

This represents a real service to the nation as a whole. It has meant that more and more people have been able to enjoy such foods "out of season"; the housewife no longer has to rely on the can-opener between September and July. The inhabitant of the northern part of the country no longer finds his winter diet a vastly different affair from his summer diet. Both his health and his enjoyment of life have been enhanced.

Cinderella and Her Godmother



A WASHINGTON BYSTANDER

By KIRKEL L. SIMPSON
(Associated Press Staff Writer)
WASHINGTON, (AP)—State department folk look at the "out-law-war" language of the foreign policy planks of both the Kansas City and Houston conventions with wry glances.

They detest the phrase as meaningless in fact and apt to create misunderstanding in the popular mind as to what treaties designed to make wars less probable actually do. But it's a fine sounding slogan and it is not to be dodged. It even got into the British acceptance of the Kellogg treaty signed by Sir Austen Chamberlain, who should know better.

Department Looked On
Incidentally, the department did not stand idle when the foreign plank was in the making at Kansas City. One "Bill" Castle, assistant secretary of state and a good lad when a little fixing of that sort is to be done, was very much in evidence around the resolutions committee there. The plank may be said to have full state department approval except for that war outlawry tag and to its complete endorsement of administration foreign policy. But Castle or no Castle, Senator Borah was not to be denied a little center on his pet hobby and he went the outlaw war trail to wag a dog otherwise irreproachable in state department eyes.

Houston, for obvious reasons, was a more difficult diplomatic task for a republican administered state department. Yet there were possibilities. Frank Polk and

Norman Davis, both former democratic secretaries of state and Polk probably the most popular man personally with the permanent folks at the department of all the political appointees from secretary down in the last decade or two, might be able to swing a little influence. Wholly unofficially, they were approached. But Polk didn't go to Houston at all and the outlaw war thing bobbed up there, even lacking a Borah to ride it through.

And that's that. Diplomacy and domestic politics may be on speaking terms at times; but they don't always see eye to eye.

Kellogg's Future
Speaking of the state department, there is considerable gossip about Secretary Kellogg's personal plans. Many folk in and out of the state department and diplomatic corps, are wondering whether he might not ride out of office voluntarily on the wave of accomplishment signaled by signing of the new peace treaty in Paris. Nobody blamed him for sitting tight when the democratic-liberal assault to oust him was going full blast just a few months ago. Who likes to quit under fire?

But things have changed a lot in the foreign relations field. Mexican relations have been morrowized; Nicaragua Stimsonized, with General McCoy mopping up; China affords a tribute to Mr. Kellogg himself and his departmental and diplomatic advisers and, to crown it all, comes the peace treaty. There seems little left for his critics to carp about.

But those who know the secretary best believe he'll be still on the job up to March 4, regardless of who wins the election. They declare he hasn't another darn thing to do with himself and that he likes the job, for that if for no other reason.

Bits for Breakfast

By R. J. Hendricks

And so it goes—

The Miles linen mill is forced to build a new warehouse.

The state flax industry is building a new shed for housing part of this year's crop—

And every day, in every way, our flax and linen industries are getting better and better and bigger and bigger, and of the continuation of this growth there is to be no end in the present generation.

The Brook farmers, the literary people who established a communalistic home near Boston, along the lines of Fourier's plans, would not wear cotton because it helped the cause of slavery in the south, nor wool, because it was cruel to take the fleeces from the backs of the sheep. So they wore linen. A revival of transcendentalism might help our flax and linen industries.

A quiet resort is a place where there's nothing else to do until dinner time except light another cigarette.

"At least 50 per cent of the people are feeble-minded." That's right; you can tell by their unquestioning acceptance of statistics like this.

That renewed animation shown by host and hostess as you prepare to leave is just their joyous anticipation of relief.

You can tell the historic spots at a glance. Seven tourists are grouped there while another manipulates a kodak.

Correct this sentence: "There were eight women present," said she, "and while any one of them was speaking the others remained silent."

One fault of the times is that our keen interest in the other fellow's private business seems to end when he gets robbed or shot.

Going to his death in an electric chair the other day, George Appel kidded the guard who tied his hands to the chair by remarking, "Well, I'll soon be a baked Appel, won't I?" And he was. Another man named Graham went to death at the same time. He also laughed with the guards but didn't have the Appel sauce to say that he would soon be a baked Graham gem.

The removal of several bad teeth cured Gov. Al. Smith's gout. What illnesses have your teeth brought you? Our advice is FREE!

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Corner of STATE AND LIBERTY STS. Salem, Oregon

Old Oregon's Yesterdays

Town Talk From the Statesman Our Fathers Read

August 16, 1908

Frank Curtis, shop guard at the penitentiary, has been appointed first warden to succeed E. A. McPherson, resigned.

Councilman W. C. Hubbard and family have returned from an outing at Woods, on the Big Nestucca.

J. H. Campbell has purchased the Joseph Berani property at Liberty and Union and is making extensive repairs.

Prof. S. M. Parvin and wife have gone to San Francisco where he will attend the G. A. R. encampment.

Ex-Governor T. T. Geer has gone to Cove, Union county, called by the illness of his father, H. J. Geer.

Joseph Pulitzer has provided the sum of \$2,000,000 to establish a school of journalism at Columbia university, according to press dispatches from New York.

C. D. Gabrielson returned yesterday from Ashland.

The flax crop in this vicinity amounts to about 250 tons, according to the estimate of Eugene Bosse, flax expert.

A range war is raging in Lewis and Clark counties, Montana, according to press dispatches.

This Date in

American History

AUGUST 16

1792—First theater in Boston opened.

1853—First cable to cross the Atlantic put in operation and Queen Victoria and President Buchanan exchanged greetings.

1861—President Lincoln forbade business intercourse with the southern states.

Barbs

With all the advance polls being taken on the coming election, a lot of candidates are taking their medicine through a straw.

A lot of political arguments are exceptionally dry conversation, and a lot of them are all wet.

Cleveland public schools plan to teach the art of talking pleasantly. An investment in a cheery "Hello" is a good buy.

Violinists are said to make good aviators because of their rhythm. Sounds reasonable unless they start to fiddle around up in the air.

Air Mail Making Steady Strides

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, Aug. 15.—A 10 per cent increase in air mail since establishment of the new five cent rate was announced by W. C. Irving Glover, second assistant postmaster general who arrived here today with Dr. Hubert Work, republican national chairman.

He announced that the Boeing company has made arrangements for several new planes specially equipped for carrying air mail with capacities of 1,500 pounds. These planes Mr. Glover said, will not be equipped for hauling passengers.

Cole Takes Post At Oakland, Cal.

ROSEDALE, Aug. 15.—Kenneth Cole left Sunday for Oakland, Calif., where he is to work for Montgomery Ward and company. Kenneth is the son of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Cole, and for the past several months has been working in the Ward Portland branch.

And To Think That

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The Oregon Statesman

an absolutely good

\$10,000

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