

Lincoln, The Man

SOME hundred centuries hence, when archaeologists are digging in the ruins of what was once the beautiful capital of a powerful country, located on a river now called Potomac, they may find the remains of a great temple-like structure of marble and granite and within it a statue of a man in heroic size, a man not comely in feature nor shapely of frame, yet sculptured and placed as though he were the deity of his day.

To a certain extent the excavators of that distant day would not be far wrong, for there has been an apotheosis of Abraham Lincoln, just as there was the creation of a false Washington for popular consumption. Lincoln, real human being that he was, has been exalted even in his shortcomings, until he has been made almost a popular idol.

In our own humble opinion Lincoln was essentially weak as an executive. We laugh today at the criticisms of Lincoln which appear in letters and diaries of the early sixties; yet those observations were many of them not without foundation. We say Lincoln was not distinguished as an executive leader. Had Andrew Jackson or Theodore Roosevelt been president in 1861, we believe the Civil War might well have been over in three or four months.

We have wondered many times, the crown of martyrdom denied him, thrown into the bitterness of past war political strife, if Lincoln's fame might have suffered as did Wilson's.

Lincoln was, if you please, a seer, a philosopher, the first and only great leader of his day to see into the heart of the slavery question. Neither an abolitionist nor a die-hard, he saw what others failed to see, that the burning question was the question of the extension of slavery into new domain. Left alone in the old states, it would gradually pass out; permitted to spread into new territory slavery might soon become nation-wide through the political power of the slave states. The issue became with Lincoln a moral issue, drew him back into politics, and led him forth into the greatest moral battle of the century—led him forth to the death.

See that he was he had also matchless felicity of expression so that his addresses and letters have become models of English prose. That same ability to speak and to write were after all what won his cause with the people.

We yield to none in our admiration for the great human heart of the lowly-born Lincoln, for his strange complexes of mirth and melancholy, of shiftlessness and of consuming energy. We do well to honor his memory this day, not as some god temporarily incarnate in an ungainly figure, but as a real human being who rose to great heights of intellectual achievement and made high contribution in the cause of human liberty and justice.

Performance

OREGON says to the legislature which reassembles this week: "Now is the time for performance. You have spent four weeks in milling around, in getting 'organized,' in adjourning for week-ends, in introducing bills, in riding pet hobbies for local constituents. To date in the way of major performance you have done nothing."

Two weeks remain for this session. The state is asking with growing impatience: "What are you going to DO?"

You legislators were sent to Salem for certain very definite purposes. The major problems were:

1. The condition of the state's revenue—impending deficits in the state treasury.
2. The inequities in the state's taxing system.
3. Readjustment of auto licenses.

The only one of these major problems which is in a fair way for solution is the last named. The bill reducing license charges seems fairly on the road toward becoming a law. It will not altogether satisfy the people in that it does not take into consideration the depreciation of old cars; but the relief provided will be most acceptable even so.

But the legislature has not even organized itself toward effecting constructive work on the first two of the major problems listed. Just as it did two years ago it has come nearly to the end of the session with nothing done. There is no higher duty of a legislative body than protecting the financial credit of a state. Oregon is in dire need of that protection. The legislature, this present legislature, dare not shirk that responsibility.

The way is well marked for mitigating some of the injustices of Oregon's taxing laws. The Carkin commission has performed on the whole a very creditable work. Its three most important recommendations ought to be formulated into law. These are: giving a tax commission authority to review local assessments, which ought to bring thousands upon thousands of dollars upon the tax rolls. The excise tax bill will provide part of the revenue lost through court decisions knocking out taxation of national banks. And lastly the income tax. These three proposals should be adopted.

As to the income tax, while we think the objections to the property offset feature are unsound, the Norton-Hall bill offers a good substitute so far as exemptions and rates are concerned.

The Statesman this morning speaks pointedly to the senators and representatives to lay aside individual ambitions, private legislation, and trivial asides and center their efforts in the remaining days on a really constructive program for Oregon.

Words Do Mean Something

THE mutual savings and loan associations are finding out that words do have fine distinction in meaning. The strictly mutual companies have been lobbying at the legislature trying to show the legislators that their distribution to stockholders should all be considered as "interest" and that they should not pay an excise tax on that portion of their earnings. O. C. Boggs of Medford, who has been active in presenting the case, has been head of the Jackson county building and loan association for many years.

In this state there are really two classes of building and loan associations, those strictly mutual and the reserve fund companies. The latter pay a fixed or guaranteed rate to their participating certificate holders; the former pay as their earnings justify. Under the present excise tax bill the reserve fund companies get to claim an exemption all of what they pay out to certificate holders; while the strictly mutual companies would get to claim for exemption only up to a certain per cent. Presumably the occasion for the distinction is that in the reserve fund companies the fixed charges are really "interest," while in the case of strictly mutual companies the same earnings distributed, because not fixed charges are rated, at least partially as "profits" and so would be made subject to taxation.

The point is, we admit, quite a technical one; but on its face it would seem that the strictly mutual companies should be accorded at least as favorable treatment as the reserve fund companies. The federal government even goes so far as to exempt from income tax earnings of individuals from building and loan associations up to sum of \$300. There should be some way to fix the law while in the making to avoid injustice between the classes of companies.

There's a new disease—"planter warts," a growth on the ball of the foot. Thought to be an infection, a parasitic growth of some kind. Frequent among young folk about gymnasia and swimming pools. The remedy is radium treatment, eating the growth out by acid, either preferable to the surgeon's knife. Gymnasts must now watch their step and not tramp on a wart bug.

People seeking divorces aren't convinced that marriage is a failure. Seven times out of eleven they're headed from divorce court to the license bureau. "Affinity," not incompatibility, would be the truer reading of the divorce complaint.

"If Winter Only Goes"



They Say ...

Representations of Opinion from Statesman Readers are Welcomed for Use in this Column. All Letters Must Show Writer's Name, Though This Need Not be Printed.

Editor, The Oregon Statesman: As one who has participated in, coached, officiated and has been a supporter of amateur athletics for more than 20 years, and in behalf of supporters of amateur athletics of the city of McMinnville, I am writing you this letter.

At the beginning of the basketball season the managements of the McMinnville and Salem high schools entered into a home and home game contract for two games for the 1928-29 season. The first of these games was played in Salem and was won by Salem by rather an overwhelming score. The contract provided for the playing of the second game in McMinnville, on February 8.

This schedule game created considerable enthusiasm locally, among the business men and supporters of local athletic contests, who attended at the contest in considerable numbers. In anticipation of seeing the Salem basketball team perform. To the consternation and great disappointment of those present the Salem high school failed to send its first team to McMinnville for the contest, but, instead, sent a second or third team to play the proposed game.

Be it said, that the young men who represented Salem in that contest were a fine, clean, representative type of young men, such as any school might well be proud of, but as basketball players they are an excellent exhibition of a combination of football and volleyball. The contest was somewhat of a debacle, resulting in the score of 35 to 11 for the McMinnville team.

The point of contention of the local supporters is: In every school the financial success of the athletic season is dependent largely upon the outside support, that is, of the business and professional men and townspeople generally, and in order to secure this support they schedule and advertise contests which appeal to these sources from which they expect to receive their support. In the instance under discussion, the local high school advertised a game with the Salem high school—which they were justified in doing under their contract above mentioned—on this basis a large attendance was secured, as above indicated. The Salem school, if not actually violating the wording of their contract, certainly violated the spirit hereof, and added insult to injury in indirect inference that the McMinnville high school was not worthy of competing with Salem's best. If that is their attitude, it is unsportsmanlike for them, in the beginning, to sign a contract with this, or any other high school, under those circumstances, and we consider it highly unsportsmanlike and unethical for them, or any other institution, to send out a team on a regularly scheduled game which is not truly representative of the school, nor yet capable of displaying a caliber of game worthy of the institution which they represent.

We understand that, after the scheduling of these games, the Salem high school had an opportunity to schedule a game with Medford, and ask the McMinnville high school to rearrange their schedule by postponing the Salem game here, which was impracticable, by reason of other games previously scheduled; that the Salem high school went ahead, scheduled a second game outside of their own district for the same date, and sent its team to Medford. This is not only a violation of the spirit of the contract with McMinnville, but in the estimation of the writer, unsportsmanlike and unethical.

A copy of this letter is being sent to Mr. Hug, superintendent of the Salem schools, and to Mr. Cannon, principal of the Gresham high school, and secretary of the state association.

Respectfully,  
HOWARD C. GILDEA.

Bits for Breakfast

By R. J. Hendricks

All right so far—No damage to our fruit trees—And this item is prompted by a rumor going around that our loganberry vines and a lot of our tree fruit growths have been killed or badly injured by the recent unusually long and severe cold spell.

S. H. Van Trump, county fruit inspector, said late yesterday afternoon that he had just been making examinations, and he can find no indications of damage to any of our fruit trees or the loganberry vines, either.

So we may grit our teeth and be prepared to stand the cold weather a few days longer, and replenish our wood piles and look out for the live stick.

And in a few days it will be all over and everything will be fine and dandy. We will have a good crop year, and if all the cannery and packing house managers and other marketing agents will do their best to take care of all the tonnage coming from the industries on the land, we will have the best business year in the history of the district, and the goose will hang high.

And talking of the goose, let's hear from the turkey industry, too. Here comes Chas. H. Simon, Route 8, Box 140—Salem, saying the newly adopted annual, turkey day is February 28th. Also, that every day hereafter is to be turkey day.

It is this way: The Turkey World of Chicago, a leading organ of the industry, is boosting the idea that every one eat turkey on his birthday. As "a fool is born every minute," with no doubt a good many in between who are not fools, every 24 hours there will be a lot of birthdays to celebrate. That sounds good. Eat turkey on your birthday, and ask all your friends to invite you to their birthday celebrations. Then the turkey industry will boom, and we will soon all be so full of turkey meat that we will gobble in our dreams.

Oh yes, Mr. Litchner, publisher of the Poultry World, is the man who invented the idea, at the International turkey show, Chicago.

WORDS OF THE WISE

"If you would be loved, love and be lovable."—Benjamin Franklin.

"It is folly to put the plough in front of the oxen."—Rabelais.

"He deserves praise who does not what he may, but what he ought."—Seneca.

Many Seek Compensation WASHINGTON (AP)—The applications made to the government for World War compensation total \$2,391,834.

The General Store at the Crossroads

IN THE OLD DAYS the general store was the meeting place for the entire community. If Mr. Jones had a cow to sell and Mr. Smith wanted to buy one he was sure to hear of it.

Civilization has outstripped this primitive method of barter and trade, and today the Classified Ads supplant "the general store gossip." Try one today.

Oregon Statesman

By Swain

The Way of the World

BURNS January carried the birthday of Robert Burns, whom Carlyle called "the greatest Scotchman who ever lived." It was Burns who illuminated life's commonplace scenes and experiences with the beauty of words and imagination and love. Burns was great in humanity. He was great in his understanding of the common people—and most of us are common people. He was great in his knowledge of the heart of man. Read a Burns:

"Tis thus the royal mandate ran, When first the human race began The social, friendly, honest man What 'ere he be— 'Tis he fulfills great Nature's plan And none but he."

THE END OF WAR

A Japanese Rotarian by the name of Miyasaka says: "There are no boundaries or sovereignties in our brotherhood. If the same feeling which characterizes government, there would be no international questions." War is made by the spirit of national animosity.

Rarely do the people force nations into war. Leaders may wish to have that they are in the hands of the people, but too often that is by no means the case. They may be far ahead or far behind the people. The overwhelming power for international peace lies in leadership.

THE LOWER SHELF

Preachers are sometimes criticized for being too popular in their approach and appeal. Others are criticized for being so high-brow that many in the congregation do not know what the minister is talking about. It seems to me that the best preacher is one who has exceedingly good books, but puts them on the lower shelf.

Is it not possible to keep the best of the language down to the finest principles, the most lofty idealism, simply expressed, so that all can understand, is measurably more effective than the same principles and idealism abstractly and opaquely expressed.

SKIMMERS

Those who skim through good books get less for their time than those who read fewer books thoughtfully. The acquisition of language, of the power of expression, is of great and increasing importance. Language is learned from the best writers. Read the best writers carefully, slowly, over and over.

Who's Who & Timely Views

Use of Pneumatic Tubes Between Airports Predicted

By W. IRVING GLOVER Second Assistant Postmaster General (Warren Irving Glover was born at Brooklyn, Oct. 2, 1879. He was educated in the public schools and began as a boy in the employ of a commission merchant in New York City, continuing as a distributor in the woolen trade until 1906. In the year he organized the Alton Holding corporation, a real estate concern. He served as a member of the New Jersey assembly from 1916 to 1921 and as speaker in 1920. During the next four years he was third assistant postmaster general and has been second assistant since 1925. His home is in Englewood, N. J.)

THE post office department, at all times, has in mind the quickest and speediest delivery of air mail, and I believe that in the near future, the volume of air mail will increase and become so important that all the principal air mail fields of the country will be connected with the post offices by pneumatic tubes which will insure a delivery of air mail at the office within five minutes after landing on the field. In many cases, this will mean a saving of half an hour and, in some cases, in various cities of the system, a greater saving in time.



The expense will not be so great as one might imagine and I am sure there are companies which would be glad to begin the installation of tube service between post offices and air mail fields. And remember when you pick up a book to put this question to yourself: "Have I time for this? If I read THIS I can't read THAT."

Old Oregon's Yesterdays

Town Talks from The Statesman Our Fathers Read

February 12, 1904 Dispatches received at the state executive department say hundreds of cattle quarantined in northern California because of infection are starving by reason of the drought in that section. Appeal is made to this state that some of the cattle be brought to Oregon.

The Albany college girls' basketball team defeated the Willamette university girls at Albany by a score of 8 to 5. E. W. Moulton, better known as "Dad" Moulton, has been

High Pressure Pete

