

# The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe."  
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## "I Can Explain Everything"

MUCKRAKING newspapers are diligently applying the smudge to the International Paper company and to a number of well-known newspapers in this country because the paper company, in its effort to insure a stable outlet for its newsprint has purchased stocks or bonds, in no case a majority interest, in those papers. The International Paper company is affiliated with the International Hydro-Electric company, which is in the electric light and power business, so the muckrakers are wearing their throats hoarse at the claim the power trust is breaking into the control of the country's newspapers.

Anyone who is acquainted with many of the papers in which the International Paper company has purchased an interest would know that the company couldn't control the editorial policies of the papers. One of the papers is the Chicago Daily News, one of the greatest independent newspapers in the country, with an able and reliable editor and publisher, Walter Strong. We can easily see how from a business standpoint the paper company would be willing to make a small investment in the Daily News in order to be favored with its newsprint.

Or take the Gannett papers, also mentioned as having shared a portion of their ownership to the paper company. Frank Gannett is one of the ablest newspaper executives in the United States. He has been acquiring very rapidly a number of the leading daily papers in the east; we can see where he could use some financial assistance from the International Paper company without in any way tying up to the power trust. Frank Gannett is the principal owner of these papers, yet even he does not interfere in their editorial policies. It is a settled policy with him to permit his editors to have a free hand in shaping their editorial opinions. Thus in Rochester, one of the Gannett papers is strongly republican, the other democratic. If Gannett himself doesn't interfere with his editors, what chance would President Graustein of the paper company have to control.

As a matter of fact the chief power investments of the International group have been in Canada. Only recently they invested in a power company in New England. When a purchase was made in the Boston Herald and Boston Traveler the announcement was promptly made public. Most of the papers where the International holds stock are located far out of the range of their power company activities.

We think it a poor policy for the newspaper press to be merely the end of the line for a Fourdrinier paper-making machine. But the American newspaper is destined to no such debased position. The newspapers of this country were never more independent, more fearless and less under the control of advertisers, bankers or politicians.

## Whose Ox Is Gored

SENATOR WHEELER of Montana, one of the noted inquisitors of that body, is proposing a senatorial investigation of the conditions in the textile industry. The southern senators, all democratic, are rising in opposition to Wheeler's proposal. Their states are now in the strike belt, and they do not want any prying into their affairs.

Conditions in the southern textile mills need investigating. For years northern mills have been forced to the wall because of competition from the south where workers were exploited, children ground in back-breaking toil, and operating costs thus held down. Now the workers in the southern mills are learning how to strike, and it may be expected that they will not forget this initial lesson. The southern mills have themselves to blame because of the strike outbreaks. Over a year ago a group of southern bishops presented a report severely criticizing mill conditions of labor. The mill men immediately went up in arms to rebuke the meddling persons, told them their business was to save souls and not interfere in private business. Nothing was done; now the workers are in revolt.

The whole textile industry in the east is in distress. Favored by high tariffs it has not been able to keep its own house in order. Fabulous profits during the war were taken out in dividends. The plants were not maintained and now many of them have obsolete looms and equipment. Style changes cut sharply into demand. Price cutting methods brought only financial disaster. Marketing the products has been handled through factors and commission houses who were interested only in volume of sales, not profits to the mills. Wages have been cut from 26 to 41 per cent, and hours of labor lengthened except in Alabama and Massachusetts. Production has been speeded up through the "stretch-out" system by installing larger looms.

A long summer lies ahead of progress. The senate might spend a part of its time disclosing actual conditions in cotton mills, particularly in the southern states.

How the dear public does like to be bilked. Even when it isn't bilked it is disappointed because it isn't. The latter is what happened in Portland when an advertised drawing for an automobile failed to take place, and the people who had paid nothing for their numbers, became a riotous mob. No doubt they knew there was a catch in it, and went to the scene of the drawing expecting to be let down. Figure it out for yourself, one chance in four hundred thousand to win the car; yet the public anxious-to-get-something-for-nothing took a half day off to be in at the final ceremony which didn't take place. A few months later and some one will come along with some other grand scheme like that and the people will fall for it. The sucker birth-rate has speeded up a lot since Barnum's day.

After reading of the killings by these white collar, pasty-faced, spats-shanked gunmen who run the "racket" and congest the news columns, it is a real relief to read of an old fashioned killing down in a Kentucky village. Two women got into a quarrel over a bottle of vanilla and used their fists. A fist fight never settles an issue in Kentucky, so the next day when they met at the town pump one woman fired five shots into the other woman's body. The dead woman leaves three children. Sad, isn't it; but somehow it seems a cleaner shooting than the hired killings and machine gun massacres that have become common in the big towns.

Salem is arriving. We may let a street carnival operate on a main street but we have a spanking new Hunt club. This new organization will help give the town "It". As Doc Riley of Hubbard would say, we hail the new organization with "eclat" whatever that is. Maybe after a while the banks will close on Saturday afternoons and we can really record that Salem has arrived.

## Next, Mister!



## BITS for BREAKFAST

By R. J. HENDRICKS

### "Tide of Empire"

Many Salem people saw and enjoyed that picture the showing of which closed last night at the Elsinore theater; and it should have had wider notice.

But it is mentioned here to point to the "California spirit" that ought to be emulated in Oregon. "Tide of Empire" is a representation of the early historic events of California, about which great enterprises have been developed in that state, attracting world wide attention and bringing swelling streams of money from the far corners of the earth.

But the old Oregon country was the mother of the state of California. Marshall, who discovered gold in California, went from Oregon. He was here two years before he went there. Sutter, builder of Sutter's Fort, near where gold was discovered, went from Oregon to California. Californians long ago built a monument to Marshall, and they have at large expense rebuilt Sutter's Fort.

Burnett, an Oregon immigrant, was the first governor of California, and without the Oregon settlement of the early days California might never have belonged to the United States; nor any of the Oregon Country, either. Or it might have taken a war with Great Britain to extend the limits of the United States to the Pacific, if they had been so extended at all.

Oregon was the mother of early California; but she has been much slower than her daughter in getting the spirit that builds empires. But it is coming, however belated.

The comprehensive leading editorial in the Oregonian of yesterday concludes with these words: "There is a modern movement to obtain larger official recognition for the importance of Champeog as an Oregon historical shrine. It deserves to succeed because of many aspects rather than because of a few, and because it stands out above all other local civic experiments in American annals. It merits due place among the forces through which the Oregon Country south of the 49th parallel later became American territory without the payment of a dollar or the firing of a shot."

This "modern movement" will loom large with the events that will lead up to the centenary celebration. These events will fit in the minds of the people of the United States, and of the world, the importance of what was done at Champeog 86 years ago yesterday and the acts that led up to that epochal meeting, and the results, changing the course of history, that followed it; flowed from it.

The initial causes that led to that historic gathering of a few early settlers trace their way back through all written history and beyond—and the results widen with the progress of the world, and will go on indefinitely.

But the center of these epochal events was here, in the Columbia and Willamette valleys; at Salem; at Champeog. Taken in the narrow commercial sense, there is value in this historic setting far above the dreams of either the actors, or of the present day average citizen here.

There is vast undeveloped wealth in the soil and the forests and streams and minerals of this section; large beyond estimate. But there is more than a rich gold mine, or a score of them, in the historic values of this valley, centering around Salem and old Champeog, the unfolding of which is now only in the beginning stages.

Marion county's limits at first ran to the California line and to the summit of the Rockies. They still run to the summit of the Cascades, and the time is coming when her easternmost sections will pour vast permanent wealth into her lap, in forest, mineral, water power and other wealth.

"Anyway, we are not lacking in civility," said a Scotch resident of Salem to an old timer here. "That's true, but you must admit that civility costs nothing," was the retort.

## FIRE IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RAGES

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif., May 2.—(AP)—Southern California's first forest fire of the season, which this afternoon was reported out after sweeping nearly four hundred acres of brush in day canyon, tonight still was being battled by a force of 125 men.

A hot dry wind, which had carried the blaze rapidly up both walls on the San Gabriel mountains canyon, rose again late in the afternoon, demanding fresh efforts by fire fighters to confine the flames to the burned area. Predictions were made that it would be entirely out by morning, the wind having died out this evening. The strong wind also was blamed for the start of the fire, fanning into vicious blazes smoldering embers where a fire break had been newly burned over as a protective measure.

For a time it threatened to shoot westward into timberlands of the



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## Editors Say:

### THE TOLL OF REVOLUTION

Mexico's civil wars and revolts have always seemed to possess comic opera features, but a compilation of totals shows nothing humorous in the situation. Mexican history since 1910 shows: Nineteen revolutions in 19 years. Two hundred thousand lives lost. Hundreds of millions of dollars damage to property.

In 1910, Francisco I. Madero headed a revolution against Porfirio Diaz, Madero won. In September of 1911 the Liberal party revolted in Baja California, Coahuila, Vera Cruz and Chihuahua. The Liberals lost.

In the same year Andres Molina Enriquez led a "social agrarian" revolt which lasted 15 days. In 1913 Pascual Orozco revolted and was defeated. The same year Bernardo Reyes revolted and was captured, and a little later General Felix Diaz captured Vera Cruz only to be defeated again.

General Emiliano Zapata commenced a revolt in 1912 which lasted until 1920. President Madero, who had seized the government from Porfirio Diaz, lost his life in 1913 when Felix Diaz, Bernardo Reyes and Manuel Mondragon led a successful revolt and Victoriano Huerta was made president.

In the following year Venustiano Carranza revolted, conquered the country and became president. Francisco Villa started a revolt which claimed 100,000 lives until Alvaro Obregon defeated him.

Felix Diaz revolted against the Carranza government but fled in two weeks. Obregon and Plutarco Elias Calles then revolted and seized the government from Carranza in two weeks' time. Carranza was killed.

In 1920 Pablo Gonzalez revolted against Obregon and Calles, and was thrown out of the country. In 1921 Francisco Murguia revolted, was captured and shot. General Manuel Pelaez revolted but was forced to quit.

In 1922 Adolfo de la Huerta revolted but was crushed. In July, 1926, with closing of the Catholic churches, six states became the scenes of fighting which still continues intermittently.

In 1927 the Calles government destroyed the Gomez-Serrano rebellion in four weeks and the leaders were executed.

On March 3 of this year, the 19th revolt was started by Jose Escobar. It is still dragging on in one state.—Medford Daily News.

### ST. LOUIS MAN PICKED

WASHINGTON, May 2.—(AP)—Horace Paul Besor, of St. Louis, was nominated today by President

Hoover to be a member of the federal farm loan board, filling up the unexpired term of Commissioner Eugene Meyer, who was re-

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