

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe."
From First Statesman, March 28, 1851

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Good News About Oregon Electric

CLEARING the way for the building of the Oregon Electric extension up the Santiam from Lebanon is in sight if the Southern Pacific withdraws the formal objection it lodged with the interstate commerce commission against the building of the line. Originally it was proposed to start the road at Albany, but common user arrangement has been made with the Southern Pacific for use of the tracks between Albany and Lebanon so there is no reason to think the S. P. objection will be allowed to stand.

This means the penetration of one of the vast timber belts of western Oregon which is ripe for the axe. The entire area of the South Santiam watershed above Sweet Home is heavily timbered and ready for cutting. Much of it is owned by the Hill and Weyerhaeuser interests, also identified with the northern lines, which own the Oregon Electric. The cutting of this timber and its milling into lumber will furnish heavy tonnage for the Oregon Electric.

The big stimulus will come to Albany and Linn county, but there will be a direct gain to the entire Willamette valley through the development. More payrolls will be provided, more jobs for workmen, more markets for agricultural produce. More money will come into the state. The Oregon Electric, which has been a losing proposition for years, will now gain freight tonnage that ought to make the road pay operating expenses. This much at least is assured—the Oregon Electric will not be abandoned as has at times been rumored. It will continue to be here and to render service, providing the Willamette valley with railroad competition and continuing the direct connection with the parent roads of the vast Hill system.

Salem will see an increase in business for the Oregon Electric. Equipment and materials will pass through here for the construction zone. When the work is completed the logs, or more probably the milled lumber, will move through here to eastern markets. This may call for some extensive improvements in way and structures on the Oregon Electric where for years, owing to lack of revenues, maintenance has been held to a minimum. We offer one suggestion: pull the tracks off of High street and handle both freight and passenger trains on the Front street line. This would be a great boon for High street and should be economy for the company. Portland is planning to get its electric trains off of uptown streets; and we understand the Oregon Electric plans routing its trains through Albany along the river instead of on Fourth street. A similar change might well be made in Salem.

At any rate there should be general rejoicing that the Oregon Electric is going ahead with its building up the Santiam, because it means the continuance of the road, which in the public mind at least was uncertain in the face of the mounting deficits. The road has been a good citizen, rendering good service. We want it to continue a "citizen" of the county and state for a long time to come.

Peace in South America

THE peace statue at the summit of the Andes on the border between Chile and Argentina, erected to dedicate the two nations to eternal comity, is to have a mate in South America. At the suggestion of the United States Chile and Peru will erect a peace monument on Moro de Arica, a promontory where the last battle in the War of the Pacific between the two countries took place. This is part of the settlement of the 45 year old controversy between Chile and Peru. In the war of the Pacific in 1884 Chile was victorious and seized the Bolivian port of Antofagasta and the provinces of Tacna and Arica and Tarapaca from Peru. Tarapaca was a real prize because it contains the richest deposits of nitrates in the world.

The treaty of Ancón provided a plebiscite should be held after ten years to let the inhabitants of the two provinces decide which country they should belong to. Chile wouldn't call the election so the contention between Chile and Peru waxed bitter with Bolivia sitting in as an interested third party anxious to regain an outlet to the sea.

For decades the United States has tried to mediate in the dispute. Secretary Blaine tried it. Secretary Hughes invited arbitration. The findings of the American president were not acceptable, and General Pershing failed to get the countries together when he went there to hold an election. Secretary Kellogg launched new proposals which Mr. Hoover seconded on his recent trip to both countries. The agreement followed and relations between Peru and Chile, broken for 17 years, are being resumed.

Tacna goes to Peru and Arica to Chile. Peru has rights of a free port at Arica, and Chile is to build the public works there and to pay Peru \$6,000,000. Inhabitants may decide for themselves which citizenship they will espouse. Bolivia alone is embittered. She is left land-locked; the development of her rich resources restrained by her lack of outlet.

The things which stand out are that a dispute could continue 45 years without resort to fighting; and that once again two nations with "vital interests" at stake find a peaceful settlement far more advantageous than the arbitrament of arms. What Europe needs is a few South American peace monuments.

The Oregon Merchants Magazine, official organ of the retail merchants of Oregon, comes out with a special issue for its May number. The occasion is the meeting of the National Retail Grocers convention in Portland June 24-27. The issue is magnificently illustrated with half-tones in color of Oregon scenes. The issue is liberally supported with high-class advertising from food manufacturers, packers and wholesalers. The issue should prove a most inviting introduction to Oregon for the visitors from over the country.

So the Lindbergs were sighted in a new sedan, "a popular low-priced car." The secret is out. Must be Ford's wedding gift.

Now about this bare-legs business at Wimbledon and Helen Wills' assertion that she prefers bare legs not for the fact but to increase her speed, we rise to inquire just what impediments modern diaphanous silk hosiery is to speed?

The hosiery makers took a drubbing last summer on the bare-legs fad. They are ready for it this year with real bare-leg brands of hose; only the seam up the back assures the passer-by it is silk and not hide he sees.

For our own part we prefer to see runs instead of scars, bruises, and varicose veins.

Another Farm Problem



BITS for BREAKFAST

By R. J. HENDRICKS

Wonderful, wonderful progress

In the prison industries, especially the state flax plant.

The final equipment for the handling of the output of 10,000 acres of flax, the limit that can be handled at the state flax plant, in the deseeding or threshing operation is now being installed.

A drying plant for the better preparation of the short straw for the making of spinning tow for dress goods, etc., is being put in and in every other department provisions are being made, and will be continued, for speeding up the operations, looking to the limit of 10,000 acres of flax.

There will be more wigwagging space for drying the retted product, more retting tanks, more room for sorting and packing for the markets, more and more flax pullers and scutching machines, etc., etc.

This all means rapid progress towards a \$2,000,000 annual industry in products for the markets, and more.

It will take all or nearly all the available money in the revolving fund to pay the farmers for their flax this year. It may (well likely) run beyond \$350,000. But the deseeding plant will be ready to rapidly turn the seed into up towards \$100,000, and the seed is as good as gold. It can be turned into money as fast as it can be prepared for shipment. So the farmers will get their cash on delivery.

By 1933 or 1934, there is a prospect that there will be enough accumulations in the revolving fund so that all the operations may be provided for—and they must be provided for largely a year in advance—and enough over to begin to furnish all the money for the total expenses of the prison.

That is the prospect. That is the certainty, in case no monkey wrenches are thrown into the official machinery. And there seems no disposition to throw any such monkey wrenches. The members of the legislature at the 1925 legislature put \$100,000 into the revolving fund without a dissenting vote. They did the same thing in the 1927 session, but made it \$200,000. The 1929 session was not asked for one cent for the revolving fund.

The child is growing up. It can stand on its feet. It can make its own way, and more. It can expand, from its own operations. That is wonderful progress.

After the institution shall have been made self supporting, through its industries, there will be a vision of a new site for the Oregon state penitentiary. It should be finally moved: say five or six miles or more out from the city, where at least 1500 acres of land may be provided. This may be done gradually. The institution itself, from its industries, besides paying its own running expenses, will be capable of providing its own money for the purchase of the necessary land and the erection of the buildings of the new prison.

With the help it will get from the sale of the present land, that is now in the city limits, Salem now surrounds the main prison lands. This situation is getting "more so," every day, with the opening of new residence tracts on the east and north and south.

If there were a way to provide for a loan at a low rate, the in-

stitution could take on the larger permanent site and provide for the erection of the necessary new buildings, and keep up the interest and finally pay off the loan. That is in effect what was done at the Stillwater, Minnesota, state prison, which has been self supporting since 1905, and has a 1,000 acre site.

One more thing: The time is now here for independent threshing and scutching plants all over this section. And the time will be ripe for more linen plants, and for specialty plants of various kinds, for a long long time.

They Say ...

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

"REMINISCING"

I wonder what's the matter with me.

I feel so awful itchy; It just seems I can't still, And keep just getting "itchier" and "itchier."

I wish that bird would fly away, And stop that goofy twitter; He just seems to be making fun of me, And makin' school more bitter.

I wonder how the craw-dads are, And the tiny wiggling trout; Bet they're just a waiting for me To come and pull them out.

Oh, gee! it sure is hot! Can't I figure out some way To get to that old swimmin' hole Before the close of this blisterin' day?

Just this morning I got a "U" In that pesky "rhythmic; Teacher he was sort of sore, And Ma said, "I'm simply sick."

But shucks! I can't study When it gets so close to vacation; Thoughts of swimmin', huntin' and playin' ball Make school a real vacation.

Mrs. Geo. H. Leavell.

Wife Says Mate Has Bad Temper Asks Separation

The old case of the taming of the shrew was turned about Monday in circuit court when the case of Betty E. Meyers was filed against John J. Meyers, the plaintiff asking for a divorce. She charges that her husband had a violent temper which was manifested through an uncontrolled tongue. This haughty and unpleasant disposition lead to constant difficulty and lead eventually to the request for a divorce according to Mrs. Meyers. The couple was married in August, 1926.

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Editors Say:

A RIDICULOUS SPECTACLE

The people of Oregon, with the exception of those whose lives and fortunes are interwoven with the University of Oregon or the Oregon State Agricultural college, will breathe great sighs of relief on the first of July next when the newly created board of higher education becomes the governing body of both institutions. One of the first and most important duties of that board should be to place a definite check upon the publicity activities of the schools. The law providing for a single board of regents grew out of unfortunate controversies and jealousies which have for a number of years confused the public mind. Rivalry has developed until it has become unhealthy from the standpoint of the taxpayers, and the new board has the power to compel observance of better standards. Section 13 of the laws says:

All advertising and publicity on behalf of all branches of state-supported higher education shall emanate from and bear the name of the department of higher education, and shall be conducted in such a way as to present to the citizens of the state and prospective students a fair and impartial view of the higher educational facilities provided by the state, and the prospects for useful employment in the various fields for which those facilities afford preparation.

We do not know how far the board can control the publicity activities of the alumni of either institution, but the point may properly be raised because of the contents of the Oregon State Monthly for May. Perhaps the magazine is not supported by state funds, but as its office is located in the Memorial Union Building at Corvallis, there might be some degree of control exercised by state agency. The Oregon State Monthly is the official publication of the alumni association of Oregon State college, and in the current issue five pages are devoted to attacks on the state university under the general heading of "Facts That May Have Been Overlooked," with the following sub-titles:

Under Guise of Fair Play University Propaganda Makes Sly Thrusts at College.

"Student Load" vs. Actual Enrollment.

University Usurps Functions of Board of Higher Education.

Futile Effort to Discredit Experiment Station Typical of Partisan Sub-Committee Report.

Attack on Non-Resident Student Policy of College Proves to be Boomerang.

How the University Obtained Funds for Experiments.

In addition to the articles covered by the foregoing headings the editorial column of the periodical is made up in part of material antagonistic to the university.

It is not our purpose to discuss the rights or wrongs of the questions raised. There may be justification for the attitude of the Oregon State Monthly.

A. N. Moores has let the contract for erection of his new residence at Summer and Chemeketa streets. The house will cost something over \$5,000.

McAllister To Head Old Grads Of Oregon State

Mark J. McAllister of this city and corporation commissioner for Oregon, was elected president of the Oregon State college alumni association at the annual election held in Corvallis at the regular spring meeting of the association. Jeanette Cramer of Portland was named vice-president; Clifford Dunn of Klamath Falls, treasurer, and E. C. Allsworth, secretary. Charles Reynolds of LaGrande was named a new member of the board of directors.

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Here and There:

Terse comments on Events, Local and Abroad, of the Past Week.

MR. HOOVER commits himself as a supporter of the large navy program at the same time asking the nation to take every step possible to make future wars impossible. Mr. Hoover's point is that every nation must be defensively armed, until sufficient barriers are erected by means of disarmament agreements, limited navy pacts, and the like, to assure peace.

The big problem now in limiting of navies is the matter of a "yardstick" for measurement of the values of ships. For example, assume that Great Britain and the United States each agree to scrap five cruisers of 20,000 tons displacement. Ours are each 10 years old. Great Britain's 18 years old. One set is driven by steam, another by electricity. There is a wide discrepancy in the matter of guns on the ships. Who can say that the scrapping of 100,000 tons of battleships by both nations is a means of equally reducing the navies of the two countries? Tonnage must count for a certain amount, armament for so much, age of the battleship for a given amount. From this common denominator, this "yardstick," some basis for naval limitation can be effected. International representatives are now working on this problem whose solution is a prelude to naval limitation.

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