

The Oregon Statesman

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

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Sugar Advances Unnecessary

THE proposed advance on sugar contemplated in the Hawley tariff has not met with public approval, unpopular as sugar has become in the diet list of many fastidists. The boost of sugar from 2.20 a pound to 3c is unfair in the eyes of the consuming public and in Cuba's experience, threatens the ruin of the sugar industry which for the last five years has been showing constant loss.

The United States cannot ignore the plight of Cuba, first because at least \$750,000,000 of American capital is invested in the Cuban sugar industry and since our "Reciprocity Treaty" with Cuba supposedly embodies the relationship outlined by Elihu Root in his statement that "Cuba can not be treated as an aggressive commercial rival but with a generosity which toward her will be justice." Cuban sugar is now bringing only 1.8c a pound at dock as it is shipped and the increase in tariff, even if totally absorbed in increased domestic price is bound to do harm to Cuba.

Nor will the tariff advance do much for domestic production of sugar. When the high rate now prevailing was imposed under the Ford-McCumber act in 1921, sugar production in the United States was 1,200,859 tons but the estimated output in 1929 is only 1,094,000 tons.

The real benefit from increased tariff on sugar will go to our insular possessions, Porto Rico, Hawaii and the Philippines. Given a 3c differential, less 20%, over Cuban sugar, these far away points in Hawaii and the Philippines can readily pay the extra cost of a long ocean haul without diminishing their mounting profits.

The United States now uses more than 6,000,000 tons of sugar annually. If the 3c boost in tariff was entirely reflected in retail increases we would pay \$96,000,000 more each year for sugar. At the same time we would render even more unprofitable our own investments in Cuba. We would do little to improve domestic production of sugar which years have demonstrated is not greatly aided by tariff. What we would do would be to increase profits for sugar growers in our insular possessions. Cuba 90 miles off our own coast with an ideal climate and soil for sugar production is a more economical sound spot for sugar production than islands which should be supplying the Orient as well as the domestic markets. These combinations of reasons make the sugar boost appear unwarranted; a protection unneeded; an increase which will be burdensome.

Bus Company Fiddles; Councilmen Dance

NOW that the ordinance offering a new bus franchise to the Southern Pacific Motor Transport company has been put in cold storage through the referendum route, the city council is taking steps to repeal the ordinance. It is predicted that after this is done a new ordinance will be enacted, at the behest of the bus company, which it is said will omit the exclusive right feature which was objected to by those who signed the referendum petitions. This makes the city council look like a bunch of marionettes, moving when and as the bus company pulls the strings.

The company has a franchise now, with 18 years yet to run. It came forward with the draft of a new franchise some months ago, then hastily withdrew it. The company executives then revised their franchise proposals carefully, submitted the ordinance to the council and asked that it be passed. This ordinance was repeated as fair to the city and vital to the success of organized street transportation in Salem. The council referred the ordinance to a committee and then passed it.

Why all this backing and filling on the part of the bus company? When the final draft was submitted for adoption by the council the company executives knew that it would be subject to a referendum. They should either have drawn their ordinance without the exclusive franchise feature or be prepared to stand by their guns and fight it out before the people. The company made its own bed. The Statesman thinks it should be called upon to lie in it.

As a matter of fact the ordinance passed by the council is worthy of public support. Salem needs an organized, city-wide system of street transportation. The company which is willing to furnish it ought to be protected with being granted an exclusive right to keep out irresponsible and unsafe and unreliable operators whose jitney competition injures the responsible operator and gives the public unsatisfactory service.

For the company and the council to jump about like the creatures of a puppet show makes the public disgusted with the whole works. The company should either defend its ordinance before the voters in the next election; or it should be content with the franchise which it now has.

And Now Chain Newspapers

EUGENE GREENHUT, successful promoter of a merger of department stores known as Hahn Department Stores, Inc., is turning his hand toward newspaper mergers. He proposes to use a hundred million dollars buying up daily newspapers in smaller cities from coast to coast. We thought it wouldn't be long till the agents of banking houses would turn their hands to promoting newspaper chains. There are some strong newspaper chains at the present time, but they are nearly all built up from within the newspaper profession, not the promotion of Big Business.

Chain newspapers with banking house control would be a real threat to the country. Granted they give local autonomy in news and editorial policies, the very genius of the true newspaper would be defeated, for it would be dominated from the counting-house and not from ideals of public welfare. There are some newspaper chains now but they have nearly all been developed by newspaper men actually in the business. It is a new development to make newspapers the adjuncts of bond and stock selling houses along with cigar stores, groceries, banks, hats and shoes.

There is real danger from the growth of newspaper monopoly. The newspaper enterprise calls for such an outlay of money for fixed investment and operating capital that it is a difficult matter to launch new papers to compete with those established. Chain papers with control by banking house directorates zealous for profits would be as sharp a blow at "freedom of the press" as some judicial decision limiting editorial expression.

Sunshine looks good to Willamette valley farmers after days of rain. Hay is ready for cutting and barley is turning golden. Farm crops are in fine condition now, with ample moisture in the ground. Warm weather is desired now both by general farmers and by fruit and berry-growers.

Alonso Grab won the Edison scholarship in Oregon. Now let the cynic say, "What's in a name?"

Another Embarrassing Moment



BITS for BREAKFAST

By R. J. HENDRICKS

Why are parties?

For the past two issues, this column has quoted from an old copy of The Statesman, of February 6th, 1872, when this newspaper was published by S. A. Clarke. The leading editorial of that old number was a "hot" one, against the two old parties. Here is one paragraph:

"We unhesitatingly assert that neither of the old political parties is capable of serving the people well today, because each is controlled by selfish men and officers by designing demagogues. Today the need is for honesty and economy in administration of the government, a work we cannot afford to entrust to old political tricksters. There are honest men in the world, but no political party has the monopoly of them. The people need them all for the coming battle against reckless extravagance and official dishonesty. The only safety is for all honest men to ignore party and fight side by side for principle, and the coming battle is not to be between enemies of the people, but between the people against their common enemies—monopoly which seeks to bind the nation in its chains and reduce the people to be little more than serfs, and politicians who stand in the way, ready to sell all else to secure their own advancement. The people want to know whom they can trust and they must be prudent and careful as to what steps they take or they may find that they cannot even trust themselves."

Here is another paragraph from the leading editorial of that number:

"It puzzles the minds of the class of chronic politicians to understand the mission of an independent newspaper which declines to tie itself to the sins of any political dynasty, and has opinions that are not dependent on party platforms and caucus nominations. To such, the doctrines laid down by party conventions are for the time being law, and the actions of the caucus follow after with the power of a gospel. The convention having spoken and the caucus having chosen their way is left but for the unheeding sheep to follow the guidance of their shepherd. There may be, as there have been in the past, crises of imminence, when peril threatens the life of a nation and the only hope of the people lies united action, and at such times voters acquiesce in nominations they do not sanction, and for the sake of the great ends to be secured do not haggle about the instrumentalities by which they are to be accomplished. Will any sane man say that such a crisis exists at the present time? Will he even pretend that at this time there are any questions existing which should be fought over in a spirit of bitter partisanship? There certainly are no such questions before the people, and today the existence of old political parties is threatened because fire cannot burn without fuel and partisanship cannot maintain its bitterness without positive differences to form a cause of quarrel. It is amusing to a man who really stands and looks over the field of politics from an independent position, to witness the indifference of the people on the one hand and the eager strife of politicians on the other. The latter, of course, count on the support of the masses and plan their campaigns as vigorously as ever. Caesar never divided captured provinces with more certainty than these aspirants divide among themselves the anticipated spoils of office. They are so certain that they want office that they can't believe that the people don't want

them to have it. The mission of the partisan politician and the mere party journal is a narrow and generally a selfish one. The career of the independent journalist is both easy and natural, and therefore much happier than that of the mere time server or office seeker."

The above shows the ancient truism that there is nothing new under the sun. The cry that neither of the old political parties is capable of serving the people well has been heard many and many a time since 1872. The democratic party has been killed at least nine times in the intervening period, and the republican party has had its quietus pronounced nearly as often.

Talk about the weather is scarcely less common, now than that about selfish men and designing demagogues in control of the two old parties, and the shibboleth about the monopolists and interests reducing the people to be little more than serfs.

But the country muddles along. And once in a while, or oftener, some one proclaims this a great country, and points to the fine progress it has made since the war for independence was fought and the constitution adopted and the initial protective tariff bill passed; the first general law that George Washington signed.

And we are once in a while heartened with thoughts of the progress the country has made since the war of the states was concluded and the Spanish-American war sketched, and the World War brought to the final stage around the big table at Versailles, and the Dawes arrangements fixed up, to be rearranged the other day in the new agreement about the war indemnities.

We are all too selfish, God knows, and the world and this nation and this state and county and school district and home town are carrying a lot of dead weight, with selfish men and designing demagogues. "And we, like sheep, have gone astray," all of us, as it was in the days of the ancients. And there will likely be selfish men in politics in the centuries of the remote future, on account of the extreme scarcity of the kind that will be free from this inherited sin.

For One Dollar per year you can secure a Travel accident insurance policy which will protect you against many kinds of accidents.

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OREGON GROUP ASKS N. W. RECOGNITION

CORVALLIS, Ore., June 18.—(AP)—While declining to endorse any one particular candidate, the Oregon co-operative council, composed of 29 farmers' organizations, went on record today as favoring a Pacific northwest member for the new federal farm board which President Hoover is expected to appoint within two weeks.

The resolution, passed unanimously, pointed out the fact that two of three Oregon candidates for the place are members of the council and that the northwest area should have representation because of the distinctive nature of agriculture in this region.

Oregon senators and the secretary of agriculture were wired copies of the resolution. The meeting today was the largest in the history of the organization, being attended by members of the western farm economics association who joined the group while the farm relief bill was being analyzed and discussed.

A resolution was passed recognizing benefits to come from the government aid to co-operatives, but cautioning against over stimulation through organization of ill-advised marketing associations. Senator Charles McNary was congratulated and thanked for his part in farm legislation.

Five more associations joined the Oregon council today and a general invitation was extended for others to affiliate with the state body for mutual welfare. The Lower Columbia Co-operative Dairyman of Astoria and the Douglas County Co-operative Farm bureau, Roseburg, were two of those joining.

BORDER SHOOTINGS STIR UP COMMENT

PLATTSBURGH, N. Y., June 18.—(AP)—With feeling against border shootings mounting here today, District Attorney B. Loyal O'Connell's investigation into the fatal shooting of Arthur Gordon, 22, of Plattsburgh, has revealed contradictory reports on just how the shooting occurred. Gordon was reported to have been running liquor across the Canadian border.

The case was called to the attention of the treasury department at Washington today by C. S. Johnson, president of the First National bank and president of the board of education, here, who sent the following telegram to Seymour Lowman, assistant secretary of the department.

"One of your customs guards shot a Plattsburgh boy in the back in broad daylight last Saturday morning. The people of this community are getting tired of such actions on the part of your employees and wonder if we are rapidly approaching conditions which exist in Russia. We presume that the usual statement that this assassin was acting within his authority under the law will be issued."

John C. Tulloch, collector of the

Here and There:

Terse comments on Events, Local and Abroad, in the Current News.

The Eugene Register, sued for \$10,000 in a libel action, finds the case against it dismissed on non-suit for lack of evidence. A candidate for mayor brought the action basing his charges on an advertisement inserted in the paper just before election. The court found neither malice as a motive for the ad nor did it find that any monetary damage was suffered by the person against whom the advertisement was directed. It is exceedingly difficult to prosecute a newspaper, successfully, for libel. An upright newspaper oftentimes talks straight from the shoulder but not for a malicious reason; to establish that any financial damage has been suffered from what the newspaper wrote is equally as difficult. Don't sue a newspaper if your feelings are hurt; lawyers' fees cost more than feelings.

WHO is Owen Thomas Edgar? He's the last survivor of the Mexican war of 1846. Four years ago there were 11 survivors; two years a quartet; now only one and he is 95. Yet historically the Mexican war seems but a short time ago. Most of us remember it because a group of historians declare the United States should never have prosecuted the fight. But Edgar's mind is not concerned with that. He is seeing into that dim, far-away mistland of the hereafter. His Bible is his source of comfort.

NOT the least noteworthy thing about the wreck of the steamship Laurel are the remarkable pictures which have been obtained of the vessel as it lay stranded at the mouth of the Columbia river. Aided by airplanes, staff photographers of Portland brought home a graphic story of the vessel and its dilemma. One published Tuesday in the Oregon Journal, showing the captain staying on the distressed vessel, is a masterpiece.

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port of Ogdensburg last night said that two inspectors, Weldon J. Cheatham and F. L. Coveney, of Moore headquarters, had reported the shooting to him as "accidental."

Pope To Present Famed Gold Rose To Italy's Queen

ROME, June 18.—(AP)—The newspaper Tribuna learned today that one of the famous gold roses which are the traditional gift of the pope to the consorts of Catholic sovereigns, is being prepared for presentation to the queen of Italy in the autumn. It will be the second that Pope Pius XI has bestowed. The first was given to the queen of Spain.

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EUGENE got down to business in its school election and polled 2372 votes, the largest vote in the history of the town. It was a real battle with both newspapers taking sides and with fairly well defined issues. The two directors named are supporters of the Gould administration. From the outsiders' viewpoint the result is a happy one. Eugene has had too much turmoil in its school politics. Gould has markedly smoothed the troubled waters. His administration promises continued efficiency. To change superintendents for the whim of a few "outers" is never advisable.

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Old Oregon's Yesterdays

Town Talks From The Statesman Our Fathers Read

June 19, 1904

The gasoline launch owned by Hill Bros. was overturned last evening while cruising in the government slough two miles above Salem. Millard Hill was drowned.

The M. W. A. lodge is planning to hold a street carnival in the city next week.

Prof. Z. M. Parvin has written a new Oregon song which was published for the first time in the current issue of the Oregon Teachers' Monthly.

Editorial—Jefferson, the hustling town on the banks of the Santiam, has 11 grades in its public schools, and here in Salem, the original home of educational progress and capital of the state, a hard fight must be made to keep pace with the little town that for a generation was noted for nothing more than that it was the site for Conser's Mills!

They Say ...

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

Editor The Oregon Statesman: Dear Sir: I was horrified to read in your Sunday issue, "Weather" we had seven and nine tenths inches rainfall (7.9). This is not a bonanza as noted on left upper corner. It's a tremendous calamity; a deluge and made me afraid to venture down town. Seventy-nine hundredths of an inch is an ample precipitation at this time of the year. This and also the average low temperature in this section are quite a novelty. I have a weak heart and am otherwise going to pieces so could not stand any more meteorological shocks. Please be more careful.

Sincerely yours,
J. C. RICKLI,
No. 208 Bush street.

COOK BEATS RISK

BOSTON, Mass., June 18.—(AP)—George Cook, Australian heavy-weight, won on a foul from Johnny Risko from Cleveland, in the fifth round of a ten round bout last night in the Braves' field show.

LOWFARES EAST

ROUND TRIP FROM Salem via Portland
DENVER 62.35
OMAHA 72.45
KANSAS CITY 72.45
ST. LOUIS 72.45
CHICAGO 112.75
DETROIT 112.75
CINCINNATI 112.75
NEW ORLEANS 112.75
CLEVELAND 112.75
TOBACCO 112.75
ATLANTA 112.75
PITTSBURGH 112.75
WASHINGTON 112.75
PHILADELPHIA 112.75
NEW YORK 112.75

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