

# The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe."  
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### Cruel and Unusual

A CASE pending over at Bend has exposed the faults of the practice of the legislature in rushing through laws without reading them over to find out what they are all about. The 1929 revision of the anti-liquor law says that the minimum penalty for first conviction shall be a fine of "not less than \$500"; while the minimum penalty for second conviction is \$100 fine and 30 days in jail. The way the law was intended to read was for the first conviction a fine of "not more than \$500."

Here is the story of how the manifest error happened. Back in 1915 when the prohibition act was framed, the provision was made for a fine on first conviction of "not more than \$500." The measure was engrossed and signed that way. When it was printed, however, through a typographical error, the word "less" was substituted for "more," which of course was of no effect because the engrossed copy in the secretary of state's office is the authoritative text of a law. Correction slips were printed and sent out to all who had ordered the session laws. But when the Olson code was compiled in 1920 the incorrect text of the section was printed.

When the 1929 revision was made, the section as it appeared in the Olson code was used for the making of some other amendments, so that the word "less" is actually in the engrossed 1929 law. The error thus perpetuated now becomes sanctified apparently just because the legislature didn't read the bill over carefully to see what was really in it. The question has been submitted to the attorney general's office for an opinion. It isn't supposed to be the business of the attorney general nor the courts to correct the mistakes of the legislature. If they can't, a grave injustice will be done which will make the application of penalties under the law difficult.

In the Bend case a woman was found guilty and fined \$500 for liquor possession. She didn't pay the fine and is in jail. Habeas corpus proceedings have been initiated to secure her release. A Bend judge now rules the law is unconstitutional.

Another example of sloppy work in the legislature is in the excise tax bill where one house made the exemption \$500, the other \$200; which is the amount appearing in the engrossed law, although both houses did not agree to the same text. When one sees how the lawmakers waste time playing politics for thirty days and then try to jam through an ill-digested lot of bills in the closing days of the session it is perhaps amazing that errors are not more frequent.

### "How's Business?"

ASK some men that question and you are sure of finding out that business is rotten, much worse than last month, worse than a year ago. "No business," "collections poor." Always hanging crepe. Some such calamity-howler must have been the one interviewed by a recent visitor in Salem from Longview. This is the interview as it appeared on the front page of the Longview News. Maybe its re-publication may teach the old lesson to beware "lest ye entertain angels unaware."

This is a true story. Last week a party of Longview men went into a restaurant in Salem, Ore. They had been in Salem all day, had visited the various factories, seen the city, and had a glimpse of its surrounding agricultural country. From what they had seen and heard, they knew that Salem was busy, prosperous and growing.

"Well, how's business?" one of the party genially inquired of the restaurant proprietor.

"Isn't any," was the reply.

"Why, I thought things were in good shape here."

"None—town's dead—no payrolls," said the Salemite.

"Seems like there ought to be a good payroll at that linen mill," the Longview man insisted.

"Don't suppose they employ twenty people. None of them ever come in here. Never been there myself," the proprietor answered.

The Longview man had been through the mill that very day, and had seen several hundred persons working.

The persistent questioner then asked about the canneries. "Certainly they employ a lot of people," he remarked.

"Maybe so. Don't pay much money. Can't see that they help much," was the morose answer.

Questions about the paper mill, nearby sawmills, the fine agricultural country, the business brought in by the state capitol, the university, state institutions located at Salem, all brought a disparaging answer.

The Longview men found for one thing that they knew more about Salem than the business man did. They knew that Salem was an enterprising, progressive and flourishing city.

But as one of them explained yesterday: "If we had not known better, and had been a party of tourists going through, we would have gone away with the impression that the city was on the rocks. It just brought home what an effect a few careless words can have. That man didn't realize he was taking money out of his pocket with such talk. Imagine such an attitude toward people who had come into his city and place of business to spend money."

"The same thing may be happening here. I don't believe it is—certainly not to such an extreme as we encountered in this one Salem incident. But it's a good thing to remember. Tell the truth about your city; don't give a false impression one way or another."

### Another Shake-out in Wall Street

WALL STREET had another shake-out Friday. Nobody was surprised, but that doesn't mean that nobody was hurt. The stock market long since got away from speculating on the basis of value to gambling on quotations, so far as many of the speculative favorites are concerned.

Wild trading has been confined to a limited group of securities. Utilities have been most favored and violent fluctuations have marked trading in such securities as the Insull stocks, Laclede Gas, American Superpower, etc.

With brokers' loans pushed to over six billions the credit strain became so pronounced that the federal reserve bank of New York raised its rediscount rate to six per cent. This precipitated the deluge of stocks to get out from under the load.

This shake-out doesn't mean the berries are ripe for the bears—necessarily. When the prices get settled again, the bulls will resume the offensive. The present continues a fine time to keep your money in savings account or to buy good bonds, which are really at bargain prices now.

Portland has a brand new stock exchange so now the speculators who don't have the ante to get in on the game in New York, Chicago or San Francisco, can have a little game all their own. Tacoma is aping the big towns, too, with a stock exchange and a curb market. Stock exchanges are getting to be almost as numerous as gas stations.

Once again Paris decrees long skirts. That is just about the only direction a change could go.

Ho, ho, some of these visiting legionnaires must have torn the washing off the lines down town and made up their pantaloons.

### Summer Vacationists



### BITS for BREAKFAST

By R. J. HENDRICKS

A convention city—  
And a city of welcome—

That is what Salem is and ought to be, with a greater stress upon both. This is the capital city. It is the historic center of Oregon. The forces of civilization began here, started by the pioneers of the pioneers for all the old Oregon Country.

People like to come to Salem, because the institutions of the state are here, and many other objects of interest. And Salem is a beautiful city, in a superb setting.

Taking care of the American Legion convention is a big task. It is straining the capacity of Salem. But think of what Salem will be called up to do in 1934, at the centenary celebration of the coming of the missionaries! The whole Pacific northwest, the old Oregon country, will be interested; the whole coast, for the movement began here that extended the arch of the republic to the Pacific.

Yes, the whole world, especially the whole world of Methodism, for that was the greatest missionary movement up to that time undertaken by that church—and no other has been so far reaching in beneficial results flowing from it. The centenary celebration will be bigger than the state fair; far bigger, for the crowds that will need to be taken care of, coming from long distances. Salem needs to do a lot of things. To get greater meeting places; a big auditorium; a bowl to accommodate many thousands. The state fair grounds, with its increased and increasing facilities, will help.

There are many things yet to be done, to make Salem the convention city and the city of welcome it ought to be and is destined to become.

T. T. Geer in his book, "Fifty Years in Oregon," denied the commonly accepted statement that the made country life so unpleasant had been removed by the two agencies of rural free mail delivery and the telephone—and proved his contention. (That was before the time of the automobile and the radio.) One day in 1902 Mr. Geer rode his bicycle from Salem to his farm in the Waldo Hills and at the dinner table asked his neighbor, Wilton L. Simeral if Tom Jones, another neighbor, was showing any more gray hairs than when he had seen him a few months before. Mr. Simeral replied that he had not seen Mr. Jones for two months. "Haven't seen him for two months?" Mr. Geer gasped. "Why, have you had a falling out?"

"Oh, no," Mr. Simeral answered, "but you know we have phones now and when I want to talk to him I simply call him up, and that is all there is to it. He is well enough, though, for I was talking to him this morning about whether the gourd was bad in his wheat this summer." Now, Tom Jones was Geer's nearest neighbor, and in 20 years on their farms there was never a day when they did not see one another. Also, Mr. Geer found that Simeral had not been to Macleay for a month to get the mail. He had no business there, as the mail was delivered to his door. He had seen none of his neighbors in that direction since the Christmas entertainment, six months before.

However, Mr. Geer hastened to add: "But the amount of information everybody possessed about everybody else was astonishing. Every family within a radius of

10 miles was on a 'party line,' and when two people were indulging in local gossip it was usual for every family between Salem and Silver Creek Falls and from Silverton to Sublimity, to have a receiver down—learning the latest. This is the rule, and it is justified by the fact that the ordinary conversation in the country lasts from one to two hours, so if one wants to be 'next' on that line, he must needs be in position to start his claim at the drop of the hat. And even then he is frequently left in the assertion of his right! One day, merely as an experiment, a Macleay man called up a neighbor, according to a previous understanding, and told him that a well known citizen of the locality had sustained a dislocated knee joint through an accident occasioned by a runaway team, though nothing of the kind had happened. Within the next hour the phone at the home of the supposedly injured man was kept red-hot by calls from every part of eastern Marion county inquiring as to the extent of his hurt!

"And when everybody was compelled to go to Macleay for his mail," continued Mr. Geer, "one would usually find from 10 to 20 men there waiting for the arrival of the train from Portland and hanging for their return. At such times there was an enjoyable hour or two of sociability which permitted the discussion of current topics, local, state and national, religious, political and agricultural. But there is nothing of that sort now. There is nothing to go to Macleay for!"

And more along the same strain. Those were the "good old days." Mr. Geer did not say he longed for their return. Longing would avail nothing. Julius Caesar is not more dead and less forgotten. Mr. Geer was merely stating a fact.

The Bits man would like to add a word in defense of the phone gossips of Mr. Geer's time in the eastern hill sections of Marion county. They were not a bit worse than the party line gossips of the present day in Salem. And it is not different in any other section of the country. A sick or injured person needing a doctor might die and be buried, if the emergency call for help depended upon the ending of gossipy dialogues on numerous party lines right here in Salem. And it seems that "central" can do nothing about it. The hello girl is powerless in such cases. The rule is to let 'em talk, world without end, amen.

Though something ought to be done about it. But this seems to be in the same class as the weather. You remember that Mark Twain (or was it Bill Nye?) said everybody is forever complaining about the weather, but nobody ever does anything about it.

We have books full of laws to regulate practically every relation in life, and armies of enforcing officers. Every stop and turn and hook of an auto driver has a law to regulate it, and we are beginning to accumulate a set of statutes to govern the navigation of the air, and there will soon be more than a five-foot shelf of these. But the talk of the gossips on party phone lines goes on without a thing to regulate or limit it. In fact, party line phone talk has become so common that the only thing there is left.

The government estimates that America now has enough autos so everybody could take a ride at once. If the esteemed government would visit any popular highway on a Sunday afternoon it would conclude that everybody is doing it.—Baker Democrat Herald.

### Editors Say:

OBLIVIOUS TO DISCOMFORTS OF HEAT

There has been a minimum of complaint here regarding hot weather and most of that has come from those who pay only slight attention to the fact that it is not nearly so warm here as in most places of the country and who know little or nothing about local conditions.

The local man, the one who knows his pears and his steelhead trout, is not complaining. He may, when some stranger remarks that it's hot, stop and remove his hat, pull a handkerchief from his pocket and wipe the perspiration from his forehead and face. But he always comes back with the statement that "it takes sunshine and warmth to put sugar in the pears."

Of course he is thinking strictly about the pears which are growing on 10,000 acres of trees here in this valley and which are selling for extreme high prices. This is, you know, a cooling and refreshing thought, and as he dwells upon the entrancing fact that the most of the crop of D'Anjous has been contracted at a price which will average better than \$100 a ton, there is no thought of the discomforts which most people experience in warm weather.

Then the valley resident lets his thoughts wander over to the fact that Bartlett pears have been sold at a price averaging over \$80 a ton, and cold storage chills start chasing one another up and down his spinal column. Then when he reasons that the crop of Lowell and Bosc pears will command extreme high prices he gets another shiver or two, which coupled with the knowledge that the warm sun is putting more sugar into the pears keeps him cool on the hottest days.—Medford Daily News.

### THE AMERICAN LEGION

The American Legion is enjoying its annual convention at Salem, and we are looking forward to returns from the Drum Corps competitions tomorrow, with a hunch that the local organization, which finished third last year, will win. At least we hope so.

The American Legion has done an invaluable work in the state this past year. The world is quick to forget. Men returned from the French trenches shell-shocked, broken in health, and their jobs gone. Their families, in this unfortunate train of circumstance, were destitute and would have remained destitute had it not been for the Legion. Because of the Legion's work this year, Oregon can actually boast that she has not one needy child of a world war veteran. At the same time, through the efforts of the Legion and its sister organization, the auxiliary, an adequate system of hospitalization has been established, one that provides comfort, necessity, and ultimately, when recovery comes, a job.

At the same time, those men who marched away in honest patriotism and gave their all generously and heroically, have a cure for war—the universal draft. They are in effect saying what should have been said long before their time, that machines, that business and industry are less than human beings, and that these things should be drafted along with men. When this draft law is passed, the motives for war will be gone. We wish the Legion its best convention in its history.—Cooz Bay Times.

We are all busy these days with the berries and cherries. Luscious fruit, indicative of the fine soil of Hubbard and so captivating in their delicious substance that friend wife entirely neglects her radio activities and prepares for canning. A worth-while act, we think.—Hubbard Enterprise.

### POSTPONEMENT OF DEBATE IS DECIDED

WASHINGTON, Aug. 9.—(AP)—A two weeks' postponement until September 3 of the beginning of senate consideration of the tariff was decided upon today by party leaders.

Under an agreement reached between republican and democratic chieftains, the senate, scheduled to reconvene August 19, will meet and recess over three day periods until September 3 when the republican members of the finance committee will have the house tariff bill in shape for floor discussions.

While republican leaders have been hopeful that the measure could be made ready by the earlier date, they reached the definite conclusion today that this was impossible and immediately arranged the three day recess plan with the democrats. The meeting days will be Mondays and Thursdays.

Senator Watson of Indiana, the majority leader and member of the the finance committee, who made the recess announcement, said the committee would have completed by August 19 the revision of the rate and free list schedules of the house bill, but that the additional time was required to consider changes in the administrative provisions.

### SCARFACE AL PUT IN NEW QUARTERS

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 9.—(AP)—Alphonse "Scarface Al" Capone, Chicago gangland leader, under sentence of one year for totting a loaded pistol in Philadelphia, was today transferred from the county prison in the northeastern section of Philadelphia to the eastern state penitentiary, a veritable fortress, nearer the center of the city.

The official reason for the transfer was not publicly announced but it was reported that threats against the underworld leader by fellow prisoners, caused the county prison authorities to have him removed to "Cherry Hill" as the penitentiary is locally known.

### United Brethren Choose Officers

Church officials for the Castle United Brethren church were elected at a recent official board meeting as follows: Mrs. Hannah Yarnell, class leader; Mrs. H. A. Rowe, secretary; Mrs. Blanche Welch, financial secretary; Miss Cora Weigle, treasurer; Mrs. J. C. Hill, stewardship chairman; Mrs. L. W. Biddle, director of music, finance committee; S. E. Long, J. F. Mullencock, Mrs. S. Chamberlin, Miss Bertha VanCleave and Mrs. J. W. Koerner; board of trustee: J. F. Mullencock, W. W. Rosebraugh, J. C. Hill, W. N. Blodgett and J. W. Koerner.

### Salem Band Puts On Fine Concert

An audience of several hundred people listened with appreciation to the Salem band at its 1:30 o'clock concert Thursday afternoon in Willson park.

Special appreciation was expressed for Arthur Pryor's American Legion march as it was led by Oscar Steinhilber, director.

This concert was an extra civic concert authorized by the city council in compliment to the Legion convention.

### Stage Driver is Put Under Arrest

When Floyd Hamman, driver of the Hamman stage running between Salem and Detroit failed to stop at a railroad crossing he did not know that he was to be arrested for the offense. An officer happened to see the violation and brought Hamman into justice court here. He admitted his neglect and was fined \$10 by Justice Brazier Small.

### Rabbit Breeders To Have Picnic Coming Sunday

The Rabbit Breeders' association will have a picnic Sunday at the Durbin Corroyer hop ranch located two miles west of Talbot station.

The picnic will be both professional and educational for there will be much discussion concerning the industry, and there will be one of the finest showings of breeding stock that has been seen for some time, according to reports from the association.

A judging contest will be conducted by Judge White, from La Center, Washington.

### SENATOR KING SAYS FUND PROBE LIKELY

WASHINGTON, Aug. 9.—(AP)—Senator King, democrat, Utah, said today that if any evidence "can be submitted" that the quarter million dollar political fund mentioned by Mrs. Mabel Walker Willebrandt in a current series of newspaper articles "was used in the 1926 Pennsylvania primary" he would favor an investigation of the circumstances by the senate committee which inquired into the campaign in that year of Senator-Elect Vane of Pennsylvania.

Mrs. Willebrandt wrote that \$250,000 was found in a safe deposit box of a senator after he died and that the money was turned over to another political leader. She did not mention names or states.

Senator King is a member of the Vane investigating committee of which former Senator Reed, democrat, Missouri, was chairman. The Utah senator said he saw no reason for investigating Mrs. Willebrandt's statement unless evidence was submitted that the money was used in the campaign over which the committee has jurisdiction.

### Greater Movies To be Exhibited

A week of special attractions to be staged in conclusion with Greater Movie season throughout the United States, is being planned for Salem to start about August 15, according to Sam Cohen, publicity manager of the Elsinore theatre. Mr. Cohen was in Portland Thursday afternoon and while there consulted with distributors relative to plans for the movie season locally.

### SALEM TEAM WINS DEBATE

Epworth League Institute Hears Debate on Prohibition Enforcement

FALLS CITY, August 9.—The special feature of the evening service for Epworth League Institute Wednesday was a debate between the champion of the Portland and Salem districts.

The subject debated upon was resolved that: The use of firearms be prohibited in the enforcement of prohibition. The Portland team of Helen Peters and Harry Pirdeaux upheld the affirmative and the Salem team, Hayes Beall and Jessie Pool, the negative.

The decision was for Salem and Portland one. The judges, Dr. T. H. Temple, superintendent of Salem district, Miss Mary Findley and Prof. F. H. Hertzog of Kimball college, are all members of the Institute faculty. This debate is sponsored by the 4th vice presidents of the Portland and Salem districts of the Methodist church, Lauren Deach, Portland and John Shenerberg, Salem. The champions are determined by a series of debates held during the winter preparing for the final at Institute every summer.

The winning arguments of the negative team were based on five points:

1. No crisis in the present system which demands a change.
  2. No better plan is suggested by the affirmative.
  3. That it is contrary to the American principles of law.
  4. That it would practically nullify the prohibition law.
  5. That it would lead to general disrespect of American laws.
- An announcement was made during an Institute assembly of a special state Epworth League convention to be held in Sunnyside Methodist church in Portland November 15 to 17.
- This is the first convention of its kind and probably will not be repeated for in the near future. It is made possible only by the fact that three national boards of the Methodist church are meeting on the Pacific coast at that time. State officers of the Epworth League expect to get speakers from these meetings.

Read the Classified Ads.

YOUR vacation will be more enjoyable if you have the matter of your will off your mind. Before you go is a good time to put your house in order. You have spent years working for a competence, now we suggest that you spend an hour, if necessary, to make sure that it will take good care of your family, should you leave them for good.

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