

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe."
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Smoot Withdraws Sugar Tariff

SENATOR Smoot announces he is abandoning his trombone tariff scheme on the sugar schedule. Too much opposition from the sugar interests, he said. The Smoot proposal was designed as both a tariff measure and a price-fixing measure. That was trying to carry too big a load. The tariff principle has been to fix a rate equalizing the cost of production at home and abroad; but the rate in the Hawley bill and the proposed sliding scale of Smoot's paid no particular attention to difference in cost of production. The tariff on Cuban sugar now is 1.76c a pound; the Hawley bill boosts it to 2.40c while the tariff commission a few years ago reported the difference in cost to be 1.23c a pound.

It is surprising to note the change of attitude in financial circles regarding the tariff. Or rather it is not so surprising because big financiers are very clear thinkers on matters affecting the prosperity of the country. Here is a recent news letter from one of the large New York banks:

The fundamental change that has taken place in the position of the United States internationally is clearly illustrated by the present tariff discussion, for at no period in our history has the overseas aspect of tariff legislation been so stressed, according to R. Whittlesey, vice-president of the Central Hanover Bank and Trust company. It is quite possible that our evolution during the past fifteen years may not only lead to modification of the Hawley tariff bill, but that our traditional tariff policy may be changed.

"As in other countries the people of the United States believe that home industries should be protected, but it has come about that a number of our major industries are dependent on foreign sales, and in many lines export trade has become a factor of such importance that the ability to compete depends on its development and continued expansion," Mr. Whittlesey stated. "This trade today amounts to between \$5,000,000,000 and \$6,000,000,000 annually, with nearly seventy per cent manufactured or semi-manufactured products.

"The remaining thirty per cent of raw materials and foodstuffs is an important item in our national economy. Formulation of tariff duties can no longer be exclusively centered about the protection of domestic activities, but must also consider how far such duties may have an adverse effect on the foreign trade of the country.

"Before the days of mass production and surplus output, the manufacturers of this country were almost wholly concerned with the home market and foreign outlets had comparatively little importance," the New York banker stated.

"But with the technical and industrial developments of the past fifteen years, which have led to a production volume far in excess of our domestic needs and have also created a supply of commodities that are popular abroad and have a wide market, our trading position has become such that it is intimately related to foreign demand and must, consequently, take cognizance of conditions that formerly were not operative.

"This situation strikes home to all of our citizens, for it is quite possible that an increase in unit costs, as a result of decreased foreign trade would add more to the consumer's burden than any gain to be derived from slightly increased profits or wage scales that might result from import duties that restrict unduly the sale of foreign goods in this country."

State Text Books

NOW we are having a commission investigate state printing of text books. That is one investigation we do not oppose, if it is in the hands of sensible men, because we do not see how it could be otherwise than that an investigation would expose the folly of state publication of school books. A text book is not just so many ounces of paper and cover boards and ink. A textbook is a living creature, the product of an active brain designed to stimulate and instruct active minds.

State publication of text books means either paying big royalties to owners of copyright on successful texts, or putting up with inferior quality of texts. The easy thing to do would be to sacrifice quality in order to make a showing of economy.

In this state a heavy investment in additional plant would be required in order to handle the business of producing texts for the elementary schools; the actual printing costs would be as high as any place, and the factor of saving in publishers' profits would be too uncertain to justify the big adventure.

Districts ought to be permitted to supply textbooks free for student use, because that is sound business and works a genuine economy. But the state is too small and the benefits too illusory to justify state publication of textbooks.

Neuner to Washington?

MANY anxious hearts accompany George Neuner to Washington, D. C., where he goes in response to a summons from the department of justice which it is thought may be for the purpose of offering him the position of assistant attorney general in charge of prohibition enforcement division. The anxiety is among the prospective candidates for governor, for Neuner, at present federal district attorney at Portland, has been prominent among those mentioned as possible entrants in the gubernatorial contest in 1930. Neuner is recognized as one who would be a formidable contender; and his acceptance of a post in Washington would cause a sigh of relief among others here who are letting the bee sting them badly.

All Men Free and Equal?

WE notice in the Sunday Statesman that several were arrested on liquor charges last week. What was the matter? Were they scabbing on the "union"? One chap was picked up with 10 gallons. The poor simp should have been arrested to think he could meet the demand with that quantity. He should have brought in 750 gallons, rented a room in a hotel and he wouldn't have been molested.

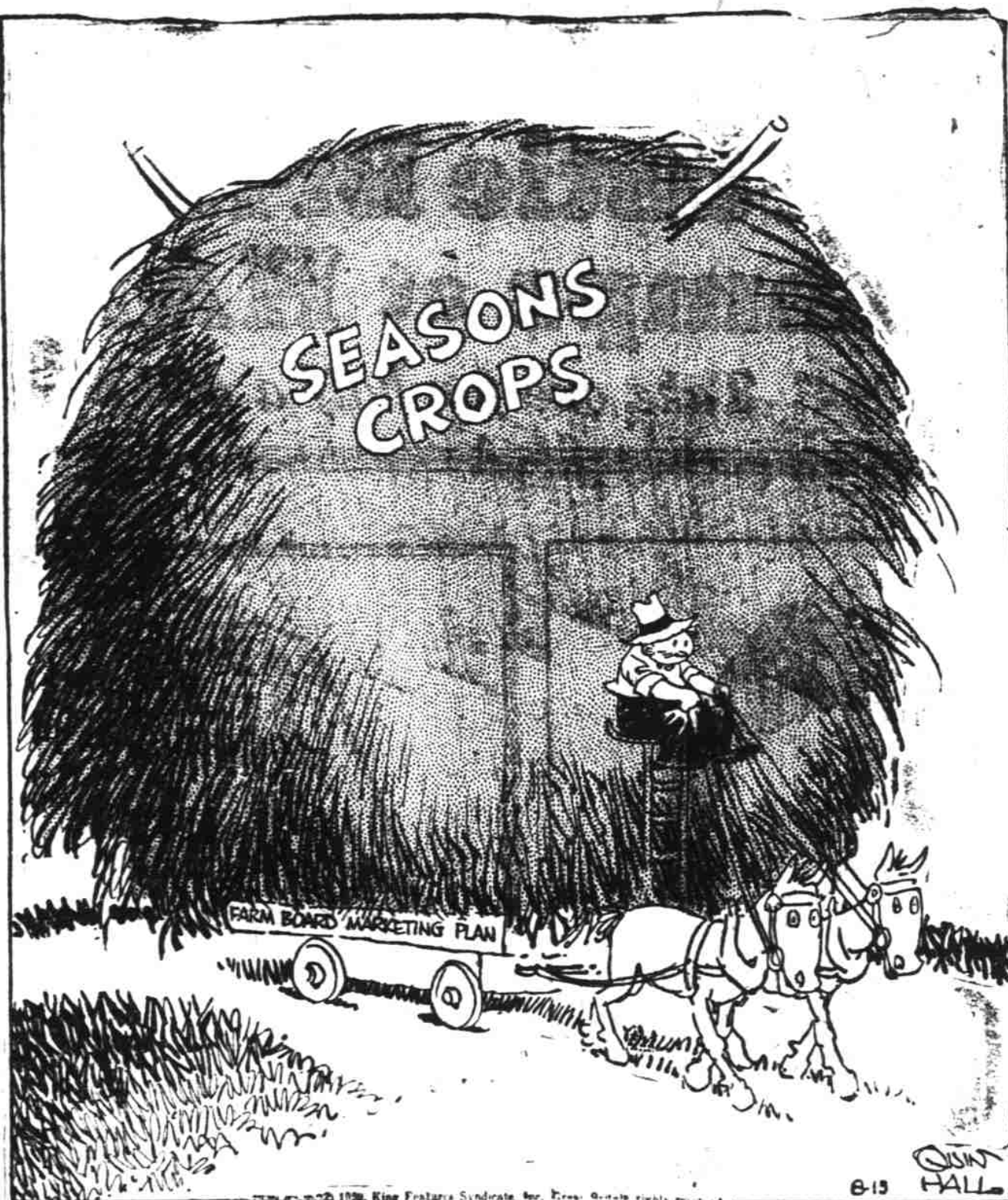
That is what gets us. The poor devil with a few quarts gets stuck but the big boy with the heavy gallone gets protected. It's not fair, not fair. Nor do we see why civic hospitality needs to be stretched to let liquor flow freely when crowds come to town. The law's the law, without respect to the calendar or the company.

The Salem Statesman did itself proud with a four section edition in three colors on the occasion of the legion convention. It is well printed, well edited, well illustrated, full of advertising and altogether is a credit both to Salem and to the Statesman force.—Corvallis Gazette-Times.

Oh, we have a few hot days each summer. Two or three of them, then the quick change, a fresh breeze from the sea, and the valley is cool again, and fresh, and people step more briskly. Just a few miles over the hills and one reaches the great ocean, cool, invigorating, great tonic for body and mind. It's a great country.

The Pantages family is patronizing the criminal courts. The Mrs. is charged with manslaughter committed in driving a car while intoxicated. The Mr. is accused of a statutory offense against a 16-year-old dancer. More of the primrose path stuff, we suppose.

The First Actual Road Test



BITS for BREAKFAST

By R. J. HENDRICKS

Reverting to modern penology:

In the first of her series of articles being printed in a syndicate of newspapers, including the Portland Oregonian, Mrs. Mabel Walker Willebrandt, ex-assistant United States attorney general, who had charge of law enforcement in the department of the prohibition statutes, said:

"I had not been in charge of prosecutions under the prohibition law more than a few months before I discovered what many persons have acknowledged: That hundreds of prohibition agents had been appointed through political pull and were as devoid of honesty and integrity as the bootlegging fraternity. I found that there were scores of prohibition agents no more fit to be trusted with a commission to enforce the laws of the United States and to carry a gun than the notorious bandit Jesse James. It was my opinion in 1921, and it still is, that the government is committing a crime against the public generally when it pins the badge of police authority on and hands a gun to a man of uncertain character, limited intelligence, or without giving systematic training for the performance of duties that involve the rights and possibly the lives of citizens."

Mrs. Willebrandt concluded her second article, in the Sunday newspapers, with the following words:

"The first civil service weeding resulted in retaining far more well meaning but 'dumb' men than those who were actually corrupt. The force has always needed, and still needs, systematic and extended training on such subjects as how legally to gather sufficient evidence, when papers can be seized, when a defendant should be put under arrest, what facts justify the issuance of a search warrant, and under what circumstances an agent is justified in shooting. There are, of course, many other subjects on which instructions should be given before a prohibition agent is allowed to exercise authority. I worked hopelessly with the training-school plan for months, but eventually it died in the mire of interdepartmental differences of opinion, division of authority and responsibility, and political interference with policies."

The words of Mrs. Willebrandt serve to confirm the statements made in the Bits column in two late issues, concerning the necessity of having trained men (and women) in every department of law enforcement, from the policeman or constable to the judge who sits on the bench of the highest tribunal.

Well meaning but "dumb" men are as dangerous to the rights of private individuals in any other branch of the service of law enforcement as they are in the one that concerns the administration of the dry laws.

Intelligence and judgment that come from correct training as well as from natural endowments are important all along the line. Therefore, as the Bits writer has long contended, penology and criminology should be taught as regular courses in our institutions of higher learning, in order that law enforcement may be raised to the status and dignity of a profession. Not that the rules which govern these matters may not be learned and understood through other training than should be provided in the schools. But there is not likely to be provided the great body of officials needed through other channels of training.

So far as we can now see, there

will necessarily be laws against crime for many generations, and the necessity of their administration. It is not creditable to the supposedly most advanced country in the world that this charge per capita is the greatest in the United States. There is no other subject that so much needs the study and action of high statesmanship. There is no phase of our life that needs so sorely the adoption and practice of laws and rules that square with a first class order of intelligence.

We are now just muddling through, chained to the festering body of the dead past. Crime is costing altogether too much in money and the agonies and tears of the innocent who suffer with the guilty. And there is altogether too little hope for the regeneration and reform of the guilty, through methods that are disgracefully outworn.

Let it be said, to the credit of Salem, and that of the American Legion, that the state convention of that body in this city last week was conducted in such a manner as to cause no serious accident in the handling of the great crowds, the automobiles carrying which on two or three evenings filled about all the available spaces in the buildings near which the splendid procession passed, in the longest display of the kind so far witnessed in the capital city.

Also, be it said that the people of Salem did wonderfully well in accommodating and welcoming the many thousands of guests that crowded the city and suburbs.

Oh, yes, the Bits man heard the many idle stories about the importation of great quantities of booze and the more idle ones about the guzzling by men and women of the wares of the supposed army of bootleggers.

There was some drinking. Perhaps even a little among the women. But the amount of this was insignificant, when compared with the whole number of sober and orderly people who came and went throughout this city and its surrounding country during the convention.

"It was the most orderly American Legion convention yet held in Oregon," said a member to the Bits man; the said member having attended all the conventions of that organization in this state.

It is a fact decidedly on the right side of the ledger that Salem could so well take care of and handle such a large convention, attended by so many thousands of the friends of the delegates.

Old Oregon's Yesterdays

Town Talks from The Statesman Our Fathers Read

August 12, 1904

The new No. 1, four roller Century press for the Statesman office has arrived and will be erected within the next few days on the cement foundation that has been ready for sometime.

Steps are being taken toward unionizing the barbers of Salem. A year ago local barbers were thoroughly unionized, but troubles since that time have completely disrupted the organization.

Talk of bringing Silver Creek by direct conduit to supply water to Salem is gaining ground and surveys will be made at once, says Manager Welch of the electric light and water company. Welch says that his company may purchase the Salem Water company, however, he does not believe the latter plant has a monopoly on water service for the city.

Editors Say:

BARBARY COAST AN SWILL TOWN

Recently some writer made the discovery that San Francisco's old Barbary Coast had lost all of the character which made it famous or infamous the world over—that it is now quite a drab and prosaic place where garages, lunchrooms and warehouses form the rows which once were made up of garish dens of iniquity, gilded palaces of pleasure, all-night dance halls, saloons, sailor boarding houses, brothers and honky-tonks.

He could have come to Astoria and made somewhat of a similar discovery, for Barbary Coast was but a bigger edition of the Swill Town of Astoria street which a former generation knew. Barbary Coast was known as the wickedest place on earth. Sailors were robbed, beaten and shanghaied, and every form of vice and crime was rampant. As a hell-hole, Swill Town was a close rival.

We hear great tales of the old San Francisco and the old Astoria which developed these breeding beds of carnalism, and the telling is sometimes accompanied with a sigh of regret that such colorful places have vanished. Time has a way of gilding bygone things with romance and glamour, but Barbary Coast and Swill Town were not romantic to those who knew them. They were horrible, and those who are disposed to think that there are signs of moral decadence in the present age should reflect upon the days when such villages of vice were allowed to flourish unchecked in the midst of cities.—Astoria Budget.

NORTH SISTER

Many persons sitting in a comfortable easy chair at home and reading of the feat of the Eugene Obsidians in putting twenty people on top of the grim old North Sister will wonder how folks get that way. There's no explaining it any more than there is the fact that many a person will risk pneumonia wading in an icy stream to catch a fish or shoot a duck, or go stunting with any aviator that will take him up, or play bridge till card combinations haunt him in his sleep. No millionaire stops with his first million and no mountain climber stops with his first peak. Everyone measures his strength and skill and courage against some obstacle or hazard, mental or physical. People are just like that. In a country as beautifully mountainous as ours, it would be a shame if there were not many to respond to the lure of the hills and the challenge of the peaks.

But a word of caution should be spoken about the North Sister, particularly. The fact that twenty people were taken to the summit in a group does not mean that anybody with strong legs and a good heart can do it. The North Sister is a veritable ugly witch when it comes to climbing. She is thoroughly bad and treacherous. Many experienced mountain men, after making the summit, have ventured the sober opinion that the peak ought to be fenced off. Of course, that couldn't be done, and if it could, it would only be an added challenge to the adventurous. The thing to remember about the North Sister is that anybody proposing to climb the peak should ponder well before he starts. He should not attempt it unless he has the company and help of experienced guides. He should not attempt it unless he is assured that his party is well equipped for any emergency that may arise. He should not think of it unless nerves as well as muscles are fit.

For that matter, the same warnings apply to considerable degree to all the other mountain peaks. The chief value of the Obsidian organization is that since people will do these things, it is developing and providing a competent

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leadership. They are teaching people not only to love the hills but to approach them with respect. If your boy (or your girl) shows symptoms of "mountain madness" don't try to hold him back. If he is small, let him learn the rudiments in one of the Scout or Y. M. C. A. camps. If he is older, let him become an Obsidian. There's no cure for "mountain madness," but it can be restrained till it is only a milder form of insanity. The Obsidians cannot guarantee safety to those who join their sports. The time will probably come when, like the Mammas and other famous mountaineering organizations, they will have to confront and surmount disaster. Mountaineering can never be anything but a risky sport. But with such an organization as the Obsidians many a tragedy such as the Ferry and Cramer mystery will be prevented. Play safe!—Eugene Guard.

CHARIVARIS

It seems as though the Medford is looking for a fight with Salem. Medford has a chip on its shoulder by claiming to be the center of some industry whereas those who have been reading the Salem Statesman for many years know that Salem is the center of all industries. But Medford is now laying claim to being the center of the charivari industry, the most asinine of our American traits, the indulgence in which ought to be sufficient evidence that the culprits are fit for the insane asylum instead of the penitentiary. To be sure, the Tribune, which boasts of the matter, spells it "shivaree," which is perhaps the only way it could make the asses who participate in them know what it was talking about. Here is its boast:

Medford is the shivaree center of the northwest, and is the only city of 15,000 souls in all the land that submits to this form of hickishness without a struggle. Every time two souls are made one within a 50-mile radius of the Jackson County Bank, Fords and galoots and tin-cans are assembled and proceed to ram up and down the Main Street, until their lungs and gasoline give out. As the grooms are too meek to put a stop to this form of social devilment, it looks like the Humdingers, Inc., would. The newlyweds are lashed to the prow of a red hot auto, and while parading serves the groom right who lacks enough gumption to resist, the bride has done nothing to merit torture. The driver of the nuptial car is always equipped with a cowboy yell, which he unleashes with gusto. The shivaree entourage has the right-of-way over funerals, fire engines, and the common variety of traffic, and if they ever have a wreck, it will be a dandy, as they always go like 60. It is time to call a halt, if somebody in authority can say "Whoa!" Shivarees come under the head of disorderly conduct and unnecessary nuisances.—Corvallis Gazette-Times.

THREE GIRLS PLAN EXTENDED JOURNEY

NEW YORK, Aug. 12.—(AP)—Arrayed in khaki colored breeches, leather puttees and caps with badges on them, but also wearing lip rouge so they won't be mistaken for motorcycle cops, three young women have set out from New York in a light motor truck to "go places and see things," in remote corners of the earth.

They headed for Alaska, with

Harriaburg, Pa., the first stop. The party consists of one German baroness, cousin of Count Brandenstein-Zepelin, who is a director of the Zeppelin company and son-in-law of the late Count Zeppelin, one motion picture actress, and one girl reporter. The baroness is Christa von Brandenstein, the movie actress, Miss Nada de Namur and the girl reporter, Miss Margaret D'Angelo of Ottawa, daughter of a former officer of the Northwest Royal mounted police. They plan to pay as they go partly by selling souvenir buttons and partly by writing stories for newspapers and magazines. And they are going to take a seven reel motion picture.

FORTY ESCAPE AS BUILDING BURNED

ELDRIDGE, Calif., Aug. 12.—(AP)—While a \$300,000 fire destroyed the north wing of the main administration building at Sonoma State Home for the feeble minded, about 40 youths, between the ages of 16 and 20 years, escaped. Officials reported after the fire had been controlled.

Six additional escapes, with their clothing turned inside out to avoid detection, were taken in custody by deputy sheriffs, shortly after the outbreak of the fire.

Possible shortage of water faced the institution, Dr. F. O. Butler, superintendent, said, due to depletion of the reservoir's resources in fighting the blaze.

Charles Atkinson, district fire warden for state institutions, had visited the institution yesterday, and recommended additional fire protection for the home. The equipment had been requisitioned by Dr. Butler this morning.



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