

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Shows Us; No Fear Shall Awe."
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The Question at the A. B. A.

BANKERS over the country are looking forward to the San Francisco convention of the American Bankers Association which convenes Sept. 30th with more than usual interest. The big question to come up at that time is that of branch banking. Strong interests are going to urge the association to endorse a program of nation-wide banking groups or chains. Others who are staunch advocates of the independent banking units will fight the proposals vigorously.

Meantime under the form of holding companies banking combines are springing up and making rapid progress. The Bank of Italy of California has expanded into a nationwide investment trust. A group of banks in the Twin Cities has organized a banking group controlling banks in Minneapolis, St. Paul, the Dakotas, Omaha, Des Moines, with total resources of a third of a billion dollars. Seattle and Portland are centers of smaller banking chains. Now big financial interests in New York, Stone & Webster, Morgans, the Marine Trust Co. of Buffalo, are reputed to be entering the field of chain bank financing.

There is much to be said in favor of branch banking, particularly that of the form taken by the Canadian banks rather than the holding company type, which restrictive American laws have forced. On the other hand the independent bank has a strong and loyal following who contend that local interests will be better protected under the independent, locally controlled bank than under the chain system. The contest at San Francisco will be but a prelude to the bigger contest which will take place in Congress when proposals for legalizing the formation of branch banks under the national system will be made.

A Community Chest

SALEM has gone through several "drives" recently. In aiding in the solicitation we heard frequent expressions of hope that Salem might adopt the Community Chest plan of financing its charities and worthy enterprises. There is much to commend the Chest plan. It combines in one big effort numerous smaller drives which cover just about the same territory and call for nearly as large an organization. The donor gets weary from steady solicitation, cuts down his contribution; whereas under the chest plan he might make an even larger donation and plan for it from year to year.

There is another frequent injustice in solicitation for meritorious activities, that is, just the down-town folks are solicited. The merchant and professional group are easy to get at, so the fund-collectors work the down-town area. No objection to this course; but many well-to-do people are not solicited if they are not engaged in down-town business, which means that too heavy a share falls on the merchant class. The merchant feels like he is being held up but he has to come through for reasons of business policy. He doesn't want his store to be listed as a "piker." Under the chest plan the entire city could be covered and the burden distributed more equitably.

Salem will very likely come to the plan of consolidated charity budgeting and solicitation and leaders in local enterprises calling for voluntary public support should plan to organize to take care of their requirements through the Community Chest plan.

Completing the Highway System

THE common argument of the proponents of issuing additional state bonds for road building is to "complete the highway system." The fallacy of the argument is that the highway system of Oregon will never be completed. Does one think for a moment that when the Roosevelt highway is finished and the few other gaps about the state closed, that the highway system will be "completed"? By no means. Road building will continue and demands for new roads, for improved roads will be just as persistent five years from now as at the present time.

Oregon may just as well settle down to a long-time view of its situation. Either we may give ourselves the opiate of additional bonds to speed up road-building only to experience the pains of the aftermath years hence in paying off the bonds; or we may definitely set the state on a "pay-as-we-go" basis, devoting all the current revenues above service for past debts to road building. The latter policy will be slower for just a few years. Eventually it will be faster because the requirements for debt service will decrease and total revenues increase.

It is the duty of the highway commission to stand firm and refuse to be stampeded by the special interests who are more concerned with getting their individual roads built than in safeguarding the interests of the state.

A Good Appointment

PRESIDENT Hoover has made an excellent appointment in designating James R. Garfield, secretary of the interior under President Roosevelt, to head the commission to study his proposal to turn unappropriated public lands over to the state. Mr. Garfield has intimate knowledge of the public lands question. His loyalty to the conservation program of Roosevelt will assure the public that there is to be no wanton raiding of the public domain.

While most of the unreserved public land of today is not fit for homesteads and small farms, it is of great value for grazing purposes or suitable for reclamation. Its disposition calls for careful study which a group composed of men like Garfield is able to give the question.

The Portland city commission hired Carey & Harlan for \$12,000 to fight the proposed raise in street car fares. The commissioners will probably run for re-election on the platform that they saved the city \$8000, since Carey & Harlan asked \$28,000 for the job to begin with. All will watch close to see if the Portland Spectator finds out how big a slice of this \$12,000 fee was spent to "get the business."

Irving Berlin is in southern California writing theme songs for the talkies. We hope he can improve on those heretofore produced. Most of them have been uniformly banal.

It is about time to read news notes from the back country villages to the effect that the Indians are predicting a "hard winter." Some of them do so most every autumn.

Now that the fires are all out we can all stand a little more dry weather till the prunes are gathered. But if tradition holds, the opening of the state fair next week will bring the fall rains.

A good many of the straw hat boys were down for fall opening Thursday night.

Tough on Stray Dogs



BITS for BREAKFAST

By R. J. HENDRICKS

The Oregon state fair—

Since pioneer days we have had many men and women of vision in its service. The early day managers picked out a beautiful spot; enlarged its site to generous proportions, embracing over 200 acres of land, and secured the erection of buildings creditable in proportion to resources then at hand. These are now practically all replaced with larger, better structures, a notable exception being the largest restaurant building on the grounds, now conducted by Mrs. Olmsted, which was built by the Aurora colony people in the sixties, when their first big tents proved inadequate, and after this building was erected, with a bakery and other structures that have been discarded, the colony people brought each year 200 members as workers, including their old time bands and orchestras, the best on the coast.

Nature provided the beautiful camp ground, that has served well its purposes from pioneer times. F. A. Welch, secretary during the nineties, was responsible for the arrangement and construction of the stock barns and the offices at the front entrance. Other secretaries did good work. M. L. Jones, then president of the board of directors, was largely responsible for the erection of the great stadium in which the horse show is held. Lack of space forbids the mention of many men and women who were influential in bringing about numerous other improvements.

But recent great improvements are due largely to the ability, industry and foresight of a woman, Mrs. Ella S. Wilson, secretary of the state fair board, working with her far seeing members. She secured the erection of the new automobile building, which is enlarged so that it may be indefinitely enlarged, and this was paid for out of savings from former appropriations and from net receipts. Numerous minor improvements have been made under the leadership of Mrs. Wilson, in the past several years.

She went before the legislature last January and proposed to get under the load of a \$150,000 grand stand and exhibition building, the largest undertaking of the kind ever projected for the state fair. She proposed to have the state advance the money, with the understanding that it could be returned within 10 years. The members of the legislature took her up, with one condition; she could have \$100,000 of state money to be regarded as a loan, and she must provide \$50,000. She did. Rather, the board did. The \$50,000 was secured on a bond issue, sold to Salem people. It will be paid back first. The magnificent building is finished; is being filled with wonderful exhibits. The grand stand portion of it is one of the finest and strongest in the country. It is large, and may be made larger.

This improvement has been long needed. It puts the Oregon state fair, the "best in the west," in a class by itself. And Ella Wilson will make good. The \$150,000 will be paid back. All the people of the state will help, by their support and patronage. A new lease of life has been given to the state fair; rather a new baptism of vigor. You will notice that, as you attend and see the exhibits during next week; the biggest and best in the 68 years of the history of the institution.

The Bits man met Congressman Robert R. Butler last Saturday at the celebration of the last apportionment of the Southern Pacific R.R. between Klamath Falls and Alturas. Mr. Butler is on a swing around the circle, trying to find out what his constituents of

that future generations may know and realize the struggles of the hardy and brave people who marked the trails of civilization in the early days of the Oregon Country, and in the struggles to attain the dignity of a territory and a state, and to make a beginning of the development of the resources of an empire.

Editors Say:

SENATE HALL IN RACE FOR GOVERNOR

Editorial writers on state newspapers see Senator Carley Hall of Coos and Curry counties, a sure candidate for the republican nomination for governor in 1930. They base their opinion upon the recent sale of Hall's controlling stock in the Pacific Bancorporation to Julius Meier, of Portland, interpreting that transaction as a definite step in Hall's program of preparation for the coming campaign.

The consensus of opinion expressed to date is that Hall, although resourceful and courageous in the game of politics, will have a difficult task in capturing the nomination from Governor Patterson. He is rated as stronger than Senator Bennett of Multnomah county, who is an avowed aspirant for nomination on the republican ticket, but up to this time no political writer has conceded him first place in a race which promises to be interesting.

Hall was a candidate for the republican nomination for governor in 1923 against Ben W. Olcott and was defeated. The fight between the two was made on the issue of the Ku Klux Klan which, following Hall's defeat for the nomination, was thrown to Walter M. Pierce.

Some observers hint that scars of the old fight between Hall and Olcott are still not completely healed and that in addition to overcoming the natural strength developed by Governor Patterson, the senator from Coos county will also be handicapped from the beginning of his campaign by the opposition of many of those who supported Olcott in 1923.

Talk of a democratic candidate for governor is centering around Bert Hanes, Portland attorney and former member of the United States shipping board. Hanes has not indicated whether he will become a candidate or not, but it is generally presumed that he is in a receptive mood.

The latest development in democratic circles is noted in an article in the Morning Register of Eugene, which says that Bourbon of Lane county are urging former Governor Walter M. Pierce to again become the standard bearer of his party in the race for governor in the coming campaign.

There is doubt, however, that Pierce, whose home is in Union county, will undertake the race. That old warrior is getting well along in years, has become comfortably settled at his home on his farm near La Grande, and it is believed that he possesses no desire to again enter the arena of state politics.

It is also very doubtful if a demagogue for Pierce becomes governor over the state. Members of his party recognize that much of his old political strength and strategy have been lost, and that to support him for governor will be waging a losing fight. —Medford Daily Mail.

NEWSPAPERS BEST READING

LEAGUE TAKES UP PROBLEMS

Disarmament and "Inapplicable" Treaties Talked At Geneva Meet

GENEVA, Sept. 20.—(AP)—Two subjects weighty with importance in the crusade for world peace and security—disarmament and "inapplicable treaties"—engaged the attention of the league of nations assembly today.

The first centered around the problem of limiting trained army reserves in seeking a basis for a general disarmament agreement. It developed a sharp conflict of attitudes between representatives of Great Britain and France.

The second subject found its vehicle for discussion in China's wish to be freed from what her leaders call the burden of "unequal treaties," with the great western nations.

Making an effort to dispose of the heavy program of business still before it, the assembly tonight in conjunction with the council of the league, elected two new judges for the permanent court of international justice at The Hague. Both vacancies were filled by the assembly within the hour.

The assembly also adopted committee reports on the protection of women and children, child welfare, and mandates.

The clash today between British and French youth on the question of trained army reserves was a factor in disarmament, was foreseen last week when Lord Robert Cecil of Great Britain announced his purpose to introduce a resolution suggesting that the preparatory disarmament commission consider the limiting of land forces, both as to personnel and material.

Lord Cecil, in presenting his resolution today, said that disarmament was the greatest question facing seekers for world peace. He said that the hoped for naval agreement, while important, would be useless if the nations could not agree also to limit their land and air forces.

Frenchman Brings Up Anglo-American Fact
Rene Massigli, a youthful Frenchman who spoke for his government, said that France believed it would be expedient to give new instructions to the preparatory commission while the Anglo-American naval negotiations were still in progress. He regretted the British change of opinion in government and suggested that perhaps the labor government might be replaced by another administration with another line of thought at some time in the future.

The French thesis found ready support from the Italian and Japanese delegations. In addition to French Dr. J. Louden of Holland, president of the preparatory commission, agreed that it would not be wise to change the instructions to his body.

Only Germany, through Count Von Bernstorff, ranged itself on the side of Great Britain in the argument.

It was the general expectation tonight that the Friday session of the committee will bring Poland, Jugoslavia and perhaps others books of the day contain language supposed to cater to a jazy, gustation, present period. In them everything almost is laid bare and goes far above the knees, or the suggestiveness is so plain that even a child understands. Such stuff is to gain popularity among a certain lot of readers and more particularly to induce sales and something to be clearly understood. There no longer seems to be the censorship, either in periodicals, books or on the stage. It is said to be the true training of youth. This may be an old fogey's opinion regarding what is in vogue today, yet may be correct. The clearest reading now issued can be found in the newspapers.—Woodburn Independent.

Old Oregon's Yesterdays

Town Talks From The Statesman Our Fathers Read

September 21, 1904
Salem voters are up in the air, figuratively speaking. According to provisions of the direct primary law all who registered to vote at the June election unless they since changed residence, and are permitted thereby to re-register, cannot vote at the coming primary.

That a great deal of interest is being taken in betterment of blood cattle of the state was fully demonstrated at exhibits at the state fair. Largest herds were Herford's, Jersey, Short Horns and Polled Angus. D. H. Looney of Jefferson showed a large herd of Jerseys and took a large number of premiums.

The prune crop in Liberty, Sunnyside and Roseburg districts will not exceed 50 per cent, according to word from growers.

Hoover Has Problem of Selecting Democrat for Arms Limitation Confab

By JAMES L. WEST
Associated Press Staff Writer
WASHINGTON, Sept. 20.—(AP)—Selection of an outstanding democrat as a member of the American delegation to the proposed January naval limitation conference is one of the tasks President Hoover will have in preparing for American participation in the five-power parity.

In all international conferences of such importance the administration has accorded the minority party in this country representation. This is particularly important in the present situation because the president will have to rely upon democratic support to obtain senate ratification of any treaty that may grow out of the meeting.

In the 1921 naval conference, President Harding found little difficulty in making a selection. Washington was the meeting place and he was able to appoint the late Oscar W. Underwood, then democratic leader in the senate. As the minority representative on the commission even though congress was in session at the time of the London conference, the 71st congress will be in the midst of its first regular session, since the 1930 naval meeting is expected to consume upwards of six weeks there is doubt whether the present democratic leader of the senate, Robinson of Arkansas, or any of the other ranking democrats in the senate, would feel that they could absent themselves from the senate for so long a period.

Should that prove to be the case, Mr. Hoover would have to look elsewhere for the democratic member. John W. Davis, ambassador to Great Britain, under Woodrow Wilson and democratic presidential candidate in 1924, is one of those whose name has been brought into the unofficial discussions. Secretary Stimson still is regarded as the most likely choice of the president as head of the American delegation, despite some suggestions that Charles Evans Hughes, who was chairman of the American delegation at the 1921 conference, and who is a close personal friend of President Hoover, might be selected.

Ambassador Hugh Gibson understood the support of the French plea for letting the subject alone at present. But at any rate it seemed clear that the British had achieved their chief purpose in that they had placed on record the position of the labor government and had made good on their party's promises to the British electorate.

Men Who Took Shots at Train Placed on Trial

MONTEREY, Mexico, Sept. 20.—(AP)—Two men who confessed they fired on a passenger train bound for Laredo, Texas, near Salinas, nine days ago were arrested here tonight and will be submitted to trial.

The men said they were drunk and fired on the train with rifles "just for the fun of it." The lives of 60 children, en route to school at Laredo, were endangered when eight of the bullets struck the passenger coaches.

HARRY LA FOLLETTE DIES
COLUMBIA, Wash., Sept. 20.—(AP)—Harry L. La Follette, 71 of New York, a cousin of the late senator Robert La Follette of Wisconsin, died at a hospital here today from influenza complications.

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