

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Ave."

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The Health of the Railroads

OCCASIONALLY one still hears apologists for the railroads who are re-working the old arguments in an effort to gain sympathy for the roads because of some encroachment of the government upon their activities. In the contention that followed the adoption of the transportation act of 1920 there was reason for a rallying to the defense of the roads against assaults that would have wrecked them; because the economic life of the nation is dependent on the health of its transportation systems, particularly its lines of railroad. But now when the railroads are subjected to no fresh assault and when the condition of their affairs was never better, the wail of railroad apologists who still try to fan old fears, seems strangely out of tune with the times.

In an address before the Denver Commercial Traffic club yesterday Samuel O. Dunn, editor of the Railway Age and self-appointed spokesman for the railway interests, after complaining that the railroads in 1929 earned only 4.80% on their investment as compared with 5.19% in 1926, stated that "the government is pursuing a transportation policy which is in no way helpful to the railways and which, if successful will be harmful to them."

The fact of the matter is that the railroads of the United States are now and have been for the past few years in the best financial and physical condition in their history. Their earnings have been larger than ever before. While the rate per cent fluctuates from year to year it must be remembered that this rate is based on the book values of the roads and not on cost or on the value established by the interstate commerce commission. The roads are in better off than they were in the days of unrestricted competition when rate cutting, rebates and subsidies prevailed and great systems were frequently thrown into bankruptcy. The roads now are not accountable to commissions of separate states for their rates as they were before the passage of the Esch-Cummins act, and this alone has operated in their favor. Railroad receiverships are now a rarity and virtually every large system is on a dividend basis. The price of railway stocks is high and holds remarkably stable, which is an accurate index of railroad prosperity.

What Mr. Dunn was striking at in particular was the expending of public funds for improvement of waterways. The government spent money for rivers and harbors long before there were any railroads and has continued to do so all through its history. A lot of money has been squandered on pork-barrel streams, and that is indefensible. But it is sound policy for the improvement of waterways in order to cheapen transportation costs where there is a large volume of tonnage to justify the cost. It does hurt the roads in a degree, but the added prosperity of the district reacts to the benefit of the roads in creating fresh tonnage for them.

It is no longer possible to scare the country by proclaiming the poverty of the railroads. Their tracks, roadbeds, equipment and operating personnel were never better than they are at the present time. While there is a lull in traffic volume right now, that is temporary and railway officials expect a resumption of normal movement of freight within a few months.

The problem of the United States now as always in the past has been to provide greater facilities for transportation and to lower the costs of freight movement rather than to halt development of one branch of transportation that some competing branch might be prospered.

The Dream is Coming True

FOR years people here have dreamed of the development of the flax industry. For years a few leaders fought for the launching of this industry. The discouragements were many, and the defeats were frequent. "It couldn't be done," said the many who could see only the obstacles. "It wouldn't pay" quickly spoke up those who could think only in terms of what-had-been-done.

But the men of faith persisted. They got support of the state officials and appropriation from the legislature. They got the flax industry at the state penitentiary started. After a great deal of work the real experiment was launched, and with that testing has come steady growth and demonstrated success.

The growing of flax has proven profitable to the farmer. The retting and scutching of flax and selling the fibre and the by-products has proven profitable to the state. The manufacture of linen products has proven profitable to the factory.

Thus the whole cycle of the flax industry is now on the basis of proven success.

This is proven graphically by the recent decision of the Barbour linen interests with headquarters in the east to acquire control of the Miles linen mill located here and to expand its operations greatly. This means that the strongest concern in this branch of the industry will make the Salem plant the one for taking care of the twine and fish-net business of the whole coast. It means the doubling of the plant. It means support to the movement to increase the growing of flax through the valley and the establishing of retting and scutching plants at various points through the valley.

In brief it means the definite establishment of the flax-linen industry here on a basis of permanence.

There remains only the working out of the problems of weaving linen cloths. The Oregon mill which has this equipment has had its handicaps and its difficulties are not yet solved. But it has gained in experience and eventually linen weaving will become successful the same as manufacture of twine and nets.

This does not mean that everything is rosy and that immediate and rapid expansion will or should take place. Not so, for the progress will be slow if for no other reason than the educating of growers and handlers of flax as to just how the work is done. But the development is now on the way.

The dream is coming true. And Salem will reap the benefit of the dreams and the doing.

Salem auto dealers are stepping right out with a special "used car week" this week. They are clearing the floors of used cars so as to be ready for an active spring business. This is the best time to buy a car because the whole season's use is ahead of one. And undoubtedly used cars represent oftentimes genuine bargains because the charge-offs for depreciation and selling commissions have brought the prices down nearest to real values.

What is the urge which prompts people to send anonymous letters sometimes about the most silly subjects? Editors get them frequently and so do me in public office. Even Calvin Coolidge now living in the obscurity of the ex-presidency, received a threatening letter from some crank the other day. We guess it is just a queer twist some folk have which prompts them to waste ink, paper and stamps on unsigned communications.

Slips, NOW what will the kluxers say?

ON A SHORT CHAIN



BITS for BREAKFAST

By R. J. HENDRICKS

Just plain lying:

Attorney Irwin Goodman of Portland is quoted in the Monday issue of the Evening Telegram of that city as having made a speech over the radio calling the Oregon state penitentiary a "crime school," and accusing the men in charge of governing the institution by fear, with a lot of other statements to the effect that Oregon's penal code is archaic, etc. etc.

The theoretical part of the radio speech is largely a matter of opinion, and it shows that Mr. Goodman has only skimmed the surface of modern penology; that he is below the sophomore or even the freshman class. But he is reported as having told his unseen audience that in the Oregon prison, "during January, 1928, a young man was hung by his wrists to a 'fish' cell door from 11:30 in the morning till 8 o'clock at night," and he charges generally that "the institution is governed by the wrong psychology — the psychology of fear; fear of the bull pen where men are locked in tiny unsanitary cells by themselves, virtually isolated from the world for as long as two years; fear of the bull ring where inmates must walk in a circle for as long as eight hours under care of the armed guard, sitting safely upon the wall in guard tower number 8; fear of being chained by their wrists to cell doors," etc.

That part of Mr. Goodman's radio speech is just plain lying. No such thing as he charges specifically has happened or can or will happen. It is just not done. The rules do not permit it, and at the Oregon prison the rules are observed. There is discipline there. No archaic iron discipline of the ancient hard-boiled sort; but discipline enforced for keeping order, to protect the voluntarily well behaved from the criminal

headquarters in Portland, would strive to prevent the main source of crime, namely juvenile delinquency . . . Our slogan should not be the defiant challenge, 'You Can't Win' but rather the slogan, 'Crime Can Be Prevented.' Oregon must strike at the foundation of crime. The problem is at root largely the problem of adolescent youth."

As to Mr. Goodman's theories. He thinks there should be segregation of the prisoners. There should be. There is, as much as the crowded condition will permit. He thinks there should be educational classes. There should be. The system is working to that point.

He complains of our criminal laws, most of which he says were enacted in 1864. He seems to want them more specific, as to penalties, etc. This is largely with the circuit judges. They can make terms long or short. They can parole from the bench, in cases they believe deserving. There is little in the mole hill of which Mr. Goodman makes a mountain in this particular. He has the wrong slant, any way, in this, in the light of modern penology. Punishment ought not to be like giving a dose of pills, so much for this and so much for that disease. Punishment should be reformatory, which our constitution requires. Modern penology requires that all sentences should be absolutely indeterminate—and that a man's release should be whenever he is capable of being a law abiding and self-supporting citizen, if ever. If never, never. But if the lamp of hope should unceasingly burn, there should be no Baumes law principle in our laws.

After citing a statement of the warden of Sing Sing prison, Mr. Goodman says: "I believe Oregon should now establish crime prevention bureau." He later adds: "I believe we should lend our efforts whole heartedly to the prevention of crime, like the prevention of disease or the prevention of fire . . . This bureau (the crime prevention bureau) with

is being taught at the Oregon prison, and there is rapid progress towards self support. There is no idleness, as there is in Sing Sing and San Quentin and most other American prisons.

There is a daily wage for the workers in the flax industry at the Oregon prison. The profits of this industry, as it is going now and in prospect, promises at an early date—in four to six years—to make the institution entirely self-supporting, leading soon to a wage for every worker, to educational classes, to segregation in time, with new buildings. In short, to the conditions of a modern prison along the approved lines of penology.

In the meantime, there is not a cleaner prison in the United States. There is not a more orderly one. Nor one in which there is less unrest. The men in confinement themselves know, better than Mr. Goodman, what makes a good prison, and what the present program will lead to; and the intelligent among them wish to aid in furthering the program. There can be no finer spirit than that in any prison. Men now there are helping to pave the way for better conditions for the unfortunate men to come after them.

If Mr. Goodman will stand by and watch, and not throw any monkey wrenches into the machinery, nor encourage others to throw any, and if there still be no change in the present program, he will soon witness the growth of the Oregon penitentiary into the model institution of this country. It has a better chance for this distinction than any other, because, under the revolving fund law, it is developing industries founded on products found or grown at home, and not competing with free labor, but rather helping it. No other American prison is so fortunately situated as Oregon's.

Once made self-supporting and with a wage for every worker, all the other benefits of modern penology will naturally follow. There can be no sure foundation for the rehabilitation of prisoners without employment and a daily wage. On that foundation all the rest of the structure can be built.

NOTED AVIATRICES MEET



Miss Amelia Earhart and Mrs. Charles Lindbergh as they appeared at the Los Angeles auto show. Note the striking resemblance Miss Earhart bears to Colonel Lindbergh.

Declines in Grain and Cotton Prices From the March Bulletin of The Guaranty Trust Company, New York

One of the most conspicuous developments in the business situation in recent weeks has been the decline in prices of grains and cotton to the lowest levels reported during the current season. In the case of cotton, the price has been the lowest since the season of 1926-27, when the raw material sold for as little as 16 cents a pound. Both wheat and cotton have gone below the prices at which the Federal Farm Board has extended loans to cooperative marketing associations—16 cents a pound for cotton and \$1.18 a bushel for wheat.

Under ordinary conditions, the situation would not be serious, as far as its immediate effects on agricultural purchasing power are concerned. The bulk of the output is normally sold by farmers in the course of the autumn, so that the level of prices at this time of year is comparatively unimportant from their point of view. But under the "orderly marketing" principle that forms the basis of the system of distribution contemplated by the farm law enacted this year, both individual farmers and cooperative associations have been encouraged to hold back their products from the market; and money has been advanced to the cooperatives on a very liberal basis for that purpose.

What policy the Farm Board will follow under the circumstances is uncertain. Prices have shown some signs of strength from time to time, apparently due to the general impression that the board, with the vast sums at its command, would do something to "stabilize" the market. At the same time, it is believed that to take drastic steps in this direction might encourage overplanting this spring, as a consequence of higher quotations. In the meantime, the board, in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture, has attempted to use moral pressure in the direction of reduced acreages for the coming season.

The whole situation presents a most enlightening illustration of the difficulties that inevitably beset public agencies created in an effort to control price movements. The world has witnessed many experiments of this sort in recent years, of which the best known have been conducted in coffee, sugar and rubber industries. The methods and principles used have varied somewhat; but, it is doubtful whether anything but a painful process of readjustment of output can permanently improve the position of agriculture. But any possibility of betterment through stabilization that may lie in the newly adopted marketing system should be given a fair opportunity to manifest itself.

Some time ago many physical ailments were not fully understood. Some diseases, which were formerly considered as separate diseases, are now found to be identical. What was once known as old-fashioned "membranous croup" is really a mild diphtheria.

Another disease, which used to be known as "false croup" is now called "spasmodic laryngitis."

The larynx is that part of the throat situated between the windpipe and the base of the tongue.

The mucous membrane lining of it may become red, and does become highly inflamed.

This dreaded croup attacks a child between the ages of two and five usually.

It may begin with what seems like a cold, possibly with some fever.

At other times, there may be no warning at all, but a sudden attack after a child gets his first sleep at night.

In a sudden attack, a child is awakened gasping for breath. He has a slight, barking cough.

This is peculiar in that it is metallic-sounding, not whistling or ringing.

The child is often in great difficulty in getting his breath.

The mucous membrane is so swollen that there is scarcely room for a bit of air to get through.

The child becomes feverish, and the pulse is rapid and difficult.

These symptoms frighten the child so much that he wants to be taken up and carried.

Heroic measures must be taken to relieve the swelling of the membrane of the throat.

The first thing to do is to send for a doctor.

While waiting his coming, the child should be put into a hot bath at a temperature of about 100 degrees.

Be careful not to have the water so hot as to scald the child.

Try the heat of water on the child's own elbow.

The child should be kept in the bath from fifteen to twenty minutes.

At the same time, apply cold compresses to its throat.

Sometimes a hot footbath, into which a dash of cold water has been added, is adequate to draw the blood from the upper part of the body, giving relief to the sufferer.

It is wise to give an emetic in the form of syrup of ipecac, or syrup of senna in order to produce vomiting and relieve the gathering of mucus in the throat.

As this dreaded croup is really a dangerous disease, your doctor is needed because he will know what to do.

There is also a treatment known as "intubation," in which a tube is inserted into the throat through the mouth so that the child may breathe.

As croup is diphtheritic, the patient should be isolated.

Answers to Health Queries

DAILY READER Q.—What causes goitre?

A.—A goitre may be caused by over secretion or improper functioning of the thyroid gland.

C. W. S. Q.—Will lack of iodine cause goitre?

A.—If a lack of iodine is responsible for a goitre what can be done?

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er project. They have been making their home in Leiburg for the past year and a half and are now locating in Portland.

Dry Referendum Will Be Sought In Oregon, Word

MEDFORD, Ore., Feb. 26—(AP)—A state-wide circulation of petitions by the National Prohibition Referendum association is being launched in Jackson county by Charles C. Franklin, enroute from San Francisco to Portland to open headquarters offices for Oregon.

Franklin is planning to organize soliciting teams for the country before leaving to do similar work in other western Oregon sections.

Four Men Killed By Blast in Mine

POTTSVILLE, Pa., Feb. 26—(AP)—Four men were killed and three injured late today in an explosion at the Lytle mine of the Lytle Coal company, about six miles from here. Seven members of the first rescue squad to enter the mine were overcome by after-damp, but other volunteers brought them out.

LEIBURG PEOPLE VISIT DAYTON, Feb. 26—Mr. and Mrs. Byron Taylor visited Mrs. Taylor's parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Hessler over the weekend. Mr. Taylor was one of the engineers on the McKenzie river power

project. They have been making their home in Leiburg for the past year and a half and are now locating in Portland.