

# The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"  
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## Freedom of the Air

RADIO, which is one of the most revolutionary inventions since the discovery of movable type, is fast becoming a great monopoly. In fact, on the manufacturing side it is so already. R. C. A. controls all the important patents, some of which the navy department gave it outright just after the war. This corporation not only exacts royalties from use of its patents, but it exercises vast power in broadcasting through its ownership of the National Broadcasting company. It is by no means a benevolent monopoly but shows its teeth whenever its interests are involved.

Testimony given before the senate committee in January, 1930, gave specific cases where it exercised its monopolistic powers. Thus it forced the city of Chicago to pay \$117,500 for its police radio system when the radio engineer said the city could have built a far superior one itself for \$45,000. Again, some of the big newspapers arranged for wireless transmission of news from Europe which would enable them to get more news at less cost; but R. C. A. controlled the patents for the land system and the contract they offered was impossible—a premium of 45% profit over General Electric's price for the equipment and 5% annual rental.

R. C. A. is of course the operating organization for the G. E. Westinghouse, and Western Electric, manufacturing subsidiary of A. T. & T. Thus it is a nexus of the great power and utility organizations; and its monopoly of anything so important as radio communication is a potential menace. Already the radio has become chiefly a blatant advertising medium, its programs commercialized till listeners have become disgusted.

The government is now engaged in an attempt to break up the R. C. A. patent pool, by which all the three companies mentioned pooled their patents in R. C. A. If this monopoly is broken up there may be a chance for restoring "freedom of the air"; if not, the whole country and the whole world in fact will be under tribute to R. C. A.

New legislation may be needed. The public needs to be on the alert and ready to grapple with the problem of preventing exploitation of this new agency of communication. Not only is broadcasting involved, but the patents extend to talking picture apparatus and equipment for sound reproduction. Already the R. C. A. interests are invading the field of sound pictures, thus extending their control of agencies and influences which vitally affect the life of the people.

Free as the air we breathe has long been a favorite expression. Under the present grip of R. C. A. the phrase is empty of meaning so far as the radio waves are concerned.

## Prices are Reversed

THE last schedule of prices for crude oil posted in the California fields reversed the usual differentials on grades of crude. Now the companies are actually offering more for low-gravity oil than for high-gravity oil. It is the latter which contains the most gasoline, and hitherto it has always commanded the highest price. The new price for 30 gravity and upwards is 35c a barrel, while prices for 14 to 19.9 gravity crude are 65 cents a barrel.

The monthly bulletin of the Union Oil company contains the following explanation, which shows that gasoline at present prices is selling below cost of production: "The new price schedule is based on the values obtainable from the different grades of crude oil under existing marketing conditions. Low gravity crude, fuel and gas oils now carry the greater economic values, in comparison with higher gravity or gasoline crudes, inasmuch as the present price for gasoline, after deducting state taxes, will not pay for the cost of raw material for gasoline and the manufacturing and distribution costs thereof. It naturally follows, therefore, that the values of the higher gravity grades decrease in proportion to the increase in the gasoline content thereof."

The overproduction which causes the gasoline war is caused by extensive drilling, conducted for the most part by independent operators who put down 492 wells in 1930 compared with only 262 by the seven largest companies. It is easy to see why the oil business is demoralized.

## Only Four to Borrow

THE fact that only four Oregon farmers were borrowers well from the government under the drouth relief act speaks well for the condition of agriculture in the great wheat belt of eastern Oregon. In Washington 671 farmers borrowed a total of about \$400,000. Central Washington suffered severely from last summer's drouth. Now the farmers there have suffered another blow for thousands of acres of seeded grain were blown out by the storm of last week, with an estimated loss of a million dollars. The time for re-seeding is now late in the season, and where could they get a fresh loan of seed for planting? Undoubtedly there will be many thousand acres in the wheat belt which will not be planted again this year.

With wheat prices what they are and promise to be for an indefinite time, those farmers will be as well off not to attempt to plant crops again. Their lands are marginal lands, and the twin blows of 1930 drouth and 1931 wind will probably force abandonment of many farms.

R. J. Hendricks, indefatigable student of Oregon history, has made an important discovery that Rev. Gustavus Hines, whose name is on the Champego monument, was under an apple tree at The Dalles on the historic date of May 2, 1843, when the Champego meeting took place. A great windstorm was raging and his party had to keep off the river. This monument has several inaccuracies and should be replaced. Mr. Hendricks is doing a valuable work in research in Oregon history, and the pageant which he is preparing will stand out as an authentic picture of early Oregon history.

Here are two straw which indicate that Sam Kofler will toss his hat in the ring in '32. He has gone back to Astoria which he left 32 years ago and says he still claims that place as "home". That's straw no. 1. He refused to discuss politics; straw no. 2. A person who planned not to be a candidate would never call a place "home" after 32 years absence; and he would talk politics as long as any old crumple would stand around and listen. Sam isn't foolin' anybody by going back "home". He still wants to make Salem his pay-check home.

Newspaper editors in Oregon are in a great predicament. They have only one front page, and that is already pre-empted by Gov. Meier; and now Smedley Butler is coming.

Judging from the drawing of the new KGW station, it is properly located out by the stock yards.

Gov. Meier has long been accustomed to buying the back page; now he gets all the front page for nothing.

## Running Ears

By DR. G. C. DAUER  
Marion Co. Health Dept.  
Quite frequently children are found to have a pussy discharge from the ears, when examined in the school clinics. Children are also commonly seen who are suffering with a sarcoma. Much misunderstanding exists on the part of parents as to the danger of such conditions.

It is quite safe to state that no child should be in school who has an earache. He should be home in bed. A physician should prescribe such treatment as may be indicated. Frequently an inflamed ear needs to be opened to allow drainage, for in many cases a chronic discharging ear can be prevented by having the ear drum incised. Where there is great pain, this can be often promptly relieved by an incision of the drum. Only a physician can indicate when this should be done.

An ear that has been running and is not properly cared for medically is merely a case of neglect. To be sure not all cases of such an early stage of infection will clear up promptly. In place the tonsils and adenoids have to be removed, in other chronic infections in the nose and sinuses must be adequately treated before the discharging ear clears up.

In many cases where the discharge has been of long standing (several months or years) the only way by which such a disease process may be stopped is by an operation on the mastoid. Such a procedure is not without some danger, hence every parent should not neglect anything suggested by the family physician to clear up the infection in the early stages. Running ears is that of deafness, which is almost certain to develop if left untreated. Many of the children in our deaf schools are there because their parents did not see to it that they had proper medical care when the infection first started. Many a case of partial or total deafness is nothing more than neglect, and most of it could be avoided.

One cannot urge too strongly upon parents the very great importance of any inflammation in the ear and the equal importance of medical care and supervision with respect to its treatment.

What health problems have you? If the above article raises any question in your mind, or if you are in need of a specialist in the treatment of ear, nose and throat conditions, write to The Statesman or the Marion county department of health. Names should be signed, but will not be used in the paper.

## Yesterdays

Of Old Salem  
Town Talks from The Statesman of Earlier Days  
April 28, 1906  
The grammar school baseball league is off to the season's start, with Lincoln leading with a percentage, and East and Yow Park each having lost to Lincoln.

The towing steamers of the Spaulding logging company are again busy towing logs from the camps of the Luckiamute to the local mills.

Frank Smith, the desperate murderer of Policeman Hanlon of Oregon City, wounded two more officers, Captain O. D. Henderson of Woodburn and Sheriff Shaver of Clackamas county, and then escaped into the brush. Smith shot when the two officers located him in Woodburn.

April 28, 1921  
Dick Schel was badly burned on the legs and Lloyd Schaffer, Cecil Thompson and Walter Frazier sustained burns on the hands in an attempt to save a rented automobile from burning. The fire started when Thompson lighted a match to see if the gas was low.

Boy Scouts of Salem will present their annual camp conclave at the armory tonight.

## New Views

The question asked yesterday by Statesman reporters, was: "Do you think all control of all the state institutions should be lodged with Governor Meier and taken from the state board of control?"

Hedda Swart, county engineer, said: "That is a hard question. It depends upon who the individual might be. If he is the right person, then it would be all right to let one man have entire charge."

A. C. Bohmstedt, real estate dealer, said, "No I do not. I think the board of control is doing a fine piece of work."

W. E. Brown, farmer of Kestler: "I should say the board of control; that is what it is for."

Kenneth C. Perry druggist: "Under the present circumstances the people seem to have voted Meier into the office to take a hand in things. It seems to be what the people want. Under ordinary circumstances the Board should have charge."

Mrs. F. S. Anusson: "I really think all the institutions of a state should be under one head; it saves duplications and trouble."

Mrs. E. B. Herrick: "I have

## TIME FOR A SHIFT IN THE HELP?

