

# The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"  
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## Centralized Tax Control

WILL the localities relinquish to the state authority to winnow and prune their taxing budgets? That is the question provoked in the plan which the governor puts forward as a means of local tax relief. The up-state press is commencing to comment on the subject. The Bend Bulletin, while endorsing the governor's ideas of cutting local taxes, comments as follows on centralized control:

"We conceive that one objection to the governor's plan is in the centralization of certain activities. Centralization may appear to offer economies when, in fact, extra cost and inconvenience to the public may develop that wipes out all the expected gain."

The Albany Democrat-Herald is outspoken in denouncing commission control of local taxes, expressing itself in the following vigorous paragraph:

"It is our opinion that local taxes are too high and that they should be reduced in many instances. We think that the governor's committee could do an invaluable work in creating a public sentiment in favor of orderly and sane tax retrenchment. But we are not in sympathy with any plan that will put the control of our local taxing units under a state commission, at a time when state commissions, as a rule, are playing fast and loose with the law and the constitution as they seek to curry favor with the populace. The right of taxation is one of the most precious rights of citizenship for it is the right that determines growth. To place the control of this right in a state commission is a step diametrically opposed to the principle of self government, a principle that has been dear to the American people since the days of the Boston Tea Party and Lexington."

This sudden resolution of the governor's is singular when at the last session of the legislature a bill was introduced sponsored by the Klamath delegation in the house, giving a state body authority to investigate and report on local bond issues. This bill died for want of support from the administration. Now the governor inclines to go even farther and give a state commission authority to disapprove of local bonds and regulate local taxes.

The plan looks very much like delivering the towns and school districts out of the hands of the voters and into the hands of the property holders.

Our own ideas on the subject of local finance have been frequently expressed. We favor first of all a state bureau of audit. This would do the work now being done at public expense and do it more cheaply. In addition from its background of experience it could advise taxing units what their financial program should be, tell them where they are headed, see that budget and expense laws were complied with. The control would still be local, but the local officials would have the benefit of expert counsel, and the taxpayers would be sure that all expenditures were legally made.

What causes the principal pains are bonds. The best check we know of bond issuance is to bar issuance of bonds unless 50% of the registered voters participated in the election, or make the approval requirement 60%.

For our part we do not see the need of any special session of the legislature which if it met would rush through a lot of half-baked legislation.

## The State and Private Business

"I AM opposed to the state entering into competition with private industry in any line." Rufus Holman, state treasurer speaking.

Is this a reversal of opinion? Was it not Holman who went on the stump for the state getting into the power business through public power districts? Did he have his fingers crossed when he was endorsing public ownership of power plants? Or did this remark just slip out without his thinking how far reaching such a statement would be when it included the words "in any line"?

This remark of the state treasurer was made at a meeting of the board of control when it was voted to scrap farming projects at the institutions save as they supplied curative or reformatory benefits to the inmates. This is a serious blunder on the part of the state. The production of these plants did not only supply healthful labor to inmates, it supplied provisions and goods which helped to hold down the operating costs. There may be brief intervals like the present where it is cheaper to buy in the market than to produce the stuff, but those occasions are very rare.

Moreover the state institutions do not produce goods for sale except in the flax plant, which is non-competitive with similar industries in this country, and the lime industry which was established to "help the farmers." The goods are produced for consumption by the state wards. To abandon these farms and industries would result not only in increased cost of operation but a serious loss in capital investment, for the equipment would be of little sale value.

If Mr. Holman means what he says and implies, then the next thing to go would be to close the state printing plant. These printing plants at Salem, Eugene and Corvallis deprive taxpaying plants operated by private persons in those cities and other plants in other cities of the state of doing printing for the state on competitive bids. Does Mr. Holman favor abandoning these state printing plants?

No, we think Mr. Holman spoke in a burst of enthusiasm to give color of argument to the resolution he was supporting. What he really means is that he doesn't know just what he means.

## McMahan Exhumes the Grand Jury

THE October grand jury, which Judge Skipworth of Eugene decided was dead as a doornail, has been ordered exhumed by Judge McMahan of the Marion county circuit court. It is easy to understand why Judge McMahan ignores the decision of his colleague, Judge Skipworth, it may be recalled, is one of the famous "regicides," so whatever he decides is automatically in error! Then McMahan has his own pride of opinion and hates to admit his own mistakes in failing to issue the proper order to keep the October grand jury alive.

For the jury to be reconvened is merely piling up the expense of what has been to date a costly snipe-hunting party of the judge's with the taxpayers of the county left holding the sack.

The judge knows all the matter which the jury pried into. If any of it is significant it can be laid before a new and legal grand jury. The facts are not dead, even if the October grand jury is. The new grand jury could take whatever action the nature and importance of the facts justified. Assuredly it should consider again the Rhea Luper case, and bring in an indictment if it thinks the facts warrant one.

## Birth Registration

VERNON A. DOUGLAS, M. D., Marion County Health Dept.

"How many mothers actually know whether the legitimacy of their children has been legally established?"

"How many can prove by a legal document the ages of their children?"

"How can you prove by law that your children are actually your own?"

You can prove the ownership of your child by a legal document, because the deed is recorded. You can prove the noble descent of a prize horse, cow, dog or hog because you register it. You have your overlooked registering the most precious possession you have—your baby, your own flesh and blood?"

These words were spoken by the president of a Women's Medical Auxiliary as she addressed a Parent-Teacher's association in a campaign for birth registration.

Why Birth Certificates? There are other reasons why birth certificates are a necessary part of civilized life. In securing passports to foreign countries, a certified copy of the birth certificate must be furnished. Legal heirs to property or wealth often find a birth certificate necessary in establishing their claim, and at times it may be very difficult to establish citizenship in a country without a birth certificate.

Oregon is in the United States birth registration area. All physicians are required by law to file a birth certificate within ten days with the local registrar for each county. In the counties of the state, county health officers act as registrars for their districts. After the certificates are received, copies are made and filed and the originals are sent to the State Board of Health.

Where Filed Here For some time past, the State Board of Health has issued to parents for each certificate received a birth notification certificate reminding them that the birth certificate had reached their office and was on file. For Marion county, this service has now been transferred to the Marion county department of health. It is one of the numerous duties of the nurses of the department to deliver these certificates in their routine calls on mothers of new born infants.

If a new baby has come to your home in Marion county since January 1 and you have not yet received your birth notification certificate, it would be well to get in touch with the Marion county department of health and a notification certificate will be mailed or delivered, provided the birth certificate itself has been filed by your physician. You will then know that your child's name, date of birth and other information is actually recorded.

What health problems have you? If the above article raises any question in your mind that question out and send it either to The Statesman or the Marion county department of health. The name will be kept confidential. Name should be signed, but will not be used in the paper.

Several columns would be required to give the speeches in full, and to the matter, as they appeared in The Statesman and the Oregonian, and they were not reported in full, either.

## New Views

Do you favor the erection of a \$250,000 memorial hall at Champanogue Park? This was the question asked by Statesman reporters Friday.

Judge Peter H. d'Arcy: "I certainly do favor the erection of the memorial building and feel sure that in time it will be done."

S. W. Zehner, mail carrier, route 1, Hubbard: "My route goes near Champanogue. I think the memorial would be a good thing something but right now, with business bad and taxes high, I don't know. Of course it would be a way to help unemployment."

Genevieve Morgan, patient at Salem General hospital: "As a reporter and representative of the paper I could not express an opinion and right now I am too full of other to express anything but a groan. Ask me tomorrow when I am a bit more used to being without my appendicitis."

Mrs. C. K. Spaulding, home maker: "I am in favor of keeping the park as nearly in its wild state as possible and not spending a lot of money in commercializing it and making it artificial."

Everett T. Counts, mortician, with W. T. Rigdon and Son: "Put it over! A good thing."

If the October jurors have any spunk they will refuse to jump through the hoop, but will file in and ask for a discharge. Whatever "report" it might bring in would be of no legal effect.

The Tillamook country keeps clamoring for the Wilson river cut-off road from Portland. Portland people look upon it as a short route to the sea. It would shorten the distance to the Clatsop and shorter from Portland to the beaches than the Salmon river cut-off. Moreover the latter road has better grades and less curvature than the other road would have. The Wilson river will come in time; but there is no immediate necessity in pouring out another million dollars in a new road to the sea.

A Seattle man who had been trusted with millions of the savings of investors, confesses he is short a million dollars which he embezzled. Where were the state investigators? In Portland there is a sign "6%—Under State Supervision"; but the building and loan association it advertised is closed and busted through the mismanagement and speculations of its managers. All concerns of an investment nature should be under state supervision and audit; and the supervision should be real and not superficial. There are too many crooks as well as stupid fools trying to handle other people's money.

Wallawa county reports damage to wheat by July frosts. Other counties report damage from May drought. So it goes. It has been an odd season, dry and wet and hot and cold, coming in an unusual succession. But most seasons are unusual somewhere. The normal we talk about so much is merely the median of the extremes; and no two seasons are ever just alike. Every year succeeds in keeping people guessing.

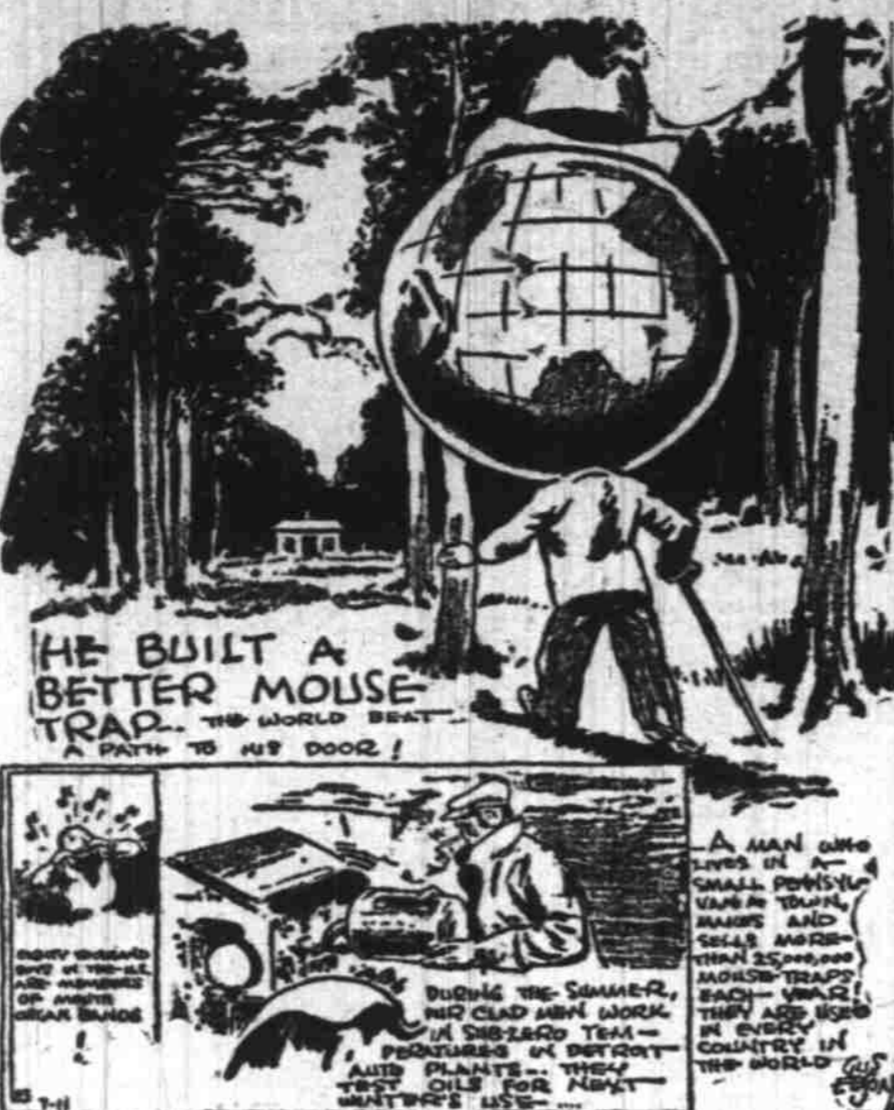
A magazine man says the cure for depression is more leisure. We had thought the cure was more work for everybody. Another thing a man working on a daily paper can't understand is why a publisher of a monthly magazine needs any more leisure. Can't there be a little socialist leveling of this leisure business?

The democrats who went down to get a shot of party pep from James A. Farley, democratic state chairman of New York state, are coming around looking over the offices they would like to fill. But the election is still over a year off.

Mayor George Baker says he repeated the Lord's prayer at the tomb of the unknown soldier, and thinks that ought to be all right. What we wonder is, did he repeat it with hiccupps.

The government is trying to get a tasteless glue for stamps to brighten things a bit for the stamp-lickers. What this state needs is some tasteless shoe polish for the hordes of boot-lickers.

## HERE'S HOW By EDSON



Sunday: 12,000 Steers to the Pound

## BITS for BREAKFAST By R. J. HENDRICKS

A strange neglect:

"It may seem strange, but the journals of that convention have never been published," said L. H. Judson in the historical article on the city, published in the Salem directory for 1873—referring to the constitutional convention of 1857; the body that framed Oregon's fundamental laws.

A great deal of discussion was had in the early days of that famous convention about the employment of a short-hand reporter, or two or more of them, to report and transcribe the debates and proceedings. A committee was appointed to secure offers from competent persons. The committee reported that Rev. Thomas H. Pearne offered to report a third of the time for 30 days for \$300, and to take his risk upon payment by the federal territorial or state government. And that Patrick J. Malone offered to report everything, and transcribe his notes, for \$10 a day for the time actually consumed; and to take the same risk as to getting his pay. There was a lot of debate on the matter, but there was no affirmative conclusion.

Rev. Pearne was editor of the Pacific Christian Advocate, a competent short-hand man, and very able minister and writer. He barely missed becoming United States senator. Malone was the reporter in the convention for the Portland Oregonian. There was no doubt as to his competency.

James K. Kelly, one of the members of the constitutional convention, afterwards United States senator, favored engaging a stenographer to take down all the proceedings, including the speeches. In one part of his remarks, he said: "Every person in the convention had a goodly amount of money and dollars were given Mr. Madison for the notes which he took in the convention which framed the constitution of the United States . . . He is said to have got \$200. And every person knows that if the congress of the United States could reclaim the debates of that convention that \$300,000 would be given if they could get the debates of the convention in full . . . We may become a great and populous state, and our proceedings may be quite as important as those of any other after us it is now to us to know what influenced the men who debated and gave birth to the federal constitution."

John R. McBride, the single member of the constitutional convention regularly chosen as a republican, from Yamhill county, gave in 1902 an address before the Oregon Historical society, containing some most valuable information about the men who made up the congress of the United States during the period. (McBride had served in congress from Oregon, and was prominent in many ways in this and adjoining states.)

Referring to Patrick J. Malone, McBride, among other things, said: "About 1867 or 1868 Malone appeared at Idaho City, where I resided, and took charge of a democratic paper for a brief time . . . Our relations were renewed . . . I will say of him that he was a man of remarkable ability, had splendid resources as a journalist . . . He said he always intended to put his stenographic notes of the debates of the convention into the hands of the state when they were called for."

"But no one had presented the matter to the legislature and he had never written them up, and should not until some compensation were provided him." He died some years ago in San Jose, California, but the notes are probably in existence still. I would suggest that the Historical Society made an effort to secure them. The method of reporting has changed largely from that prevailing in his day, but no doubt the persons able to transcribe his notes can be found.

The writer wonders if an effort was made as suggested by Mr. McBride? And if not, is it even yet too late, after nearly 29 more years have elapsed?

This is a matter worth investigating. Who will do it?

Mr. McBride said in another part of his address: "Present-day democracy frequently called some member to the chair, and, ascending to the floor, took an animated part in general discussion. On the subject of powers of

## 'The Mystery of Geraldine' By Anthony ABBOT

Geraldine Foster, a very attractive young reception clerk in the Washington Square office of Dr. Humphrey Maskell, vanished from her Moringside Heights apartment on the night before Christmas. Her room mate, Betty Canfield, reported her disappearance to the police three days after Christmas and appealed directly to Police Commissioner Thatcher Colt for aid. Betty held a phone conversation with Geraldine on Saturday, Christmas Eve, during which the latter said she wished she was dead. Betty telephoned Geraldine's mother and learned she had not arrived for the holiday. The missing girl's fiance, Harry Armstrong, had not seen her since Friday. Dr. Maskell says he returned to his office Saturday afternoon to find Geraldine gone. Colt goes on to Geraldine's Foster apartment.

CHAPTER IV. The apartment was a pleasant and homelike place with its two bedrooms, living room, kitchen and bath. The furniture was of the chintze, the nice prints, the good humored touches of novelty and color in odd and unexpected nooks and corners. Then I remembered that I was a stranger intruding here, where one had waked and slept and dreamed of her wedding day and gone out and had now mysteriously disappeared.

Returning to the living room after roaming from front to back, Thatcher got set down on the edge of the couch, leaning on his walking stick, stroked his head and stared around him with thoughtful eyes as if seeking the truth about Geraldine Foster through clairvoyance. Then he began to question Betty Canfield. Once more I admired the quiet and adroit method which he employed with such consummate skill; he was leading this girl to talk about her friend confidently, so that she was almost unaware that she was being interrogated by a master of inquiry, dragged throughout the underworld. For half an hour they chatted on, and at the close Thatcher Colt said:

"I think I have what I want now, Betty—a psychological portrait of Geraldine Foster. A reception clerk in a doctor's office, and why?—Because she wanted to be in the big city, instead of the little town where her parents lived. An ambitious girl who was taking night courses in Columbia university. A good-natured creature—you roomed with her for three years and never had a serious disagreement?"

"That's true," said Betty. "Loyal and generous." "Loyal to the man she intended to marry," resumed Thatcher Colt checking off the points of characterization he had drawn forth by his questions. "Sends little presents home to the family every week although her salary is small and her father is worth perhaps fifty thousand dollars. A girl who is kind to her mother, father, brother. Within three days of her marriage and proof she disappears, after that curious conversation you had with her over the telephone."

"Oh, there must be some way of tracing her!" exclaimed Betty, with a quiver of her lovely eyes. "Easy does it, Betty. I've only corporations, he and Judge Boise, a delegate from Polk county, were in Harmony, and I think they are responsible for the language which the constitution contains."

In another place he said: "The useful work was done by Williams, Olney, Boise, Grover and a few others." He meant George H. Williams, who was then chief justice of the Oregon supreme court and was afterwards U. S. attorney general; Cyrus Olney, who was on the supreme bench and afterwards a prominent citizen of Clatsop county; R. P. Boise, twice chief justice and for two generations on the circuit and supreme benches, and L. F. Grover, afterwards congressman, governor and U. S. senator.

The members of the Oregon constitutional convention, man for man, would not suffer in comparison with the body that over convened for a similar purpose, in any state or nation, before or since.

1. BORN IN 1765 IN PENNSYLVANIA, THE SON OF VERY POOR PARENTS, RECEIVED BUT A MEAGER EDUCATION.

2. HIS FIRST JOB WAS AS A JEWELER-ASSISTANT. LATER HE TURNED TO PRINTING AND WENT TO ENGLAND TO STUDY, ONLY TO TURN HIS ATTENTION TO ENGINEERING.

3. HE THEN WENT TO PARIS WHERE HE INVENTED A SUBMARINE IN 1801. TWO YEARS LATER HE FIRST SUCCEEDED IN APPLYING STEAM PROPULSION TO A BOAT.

4. RETURNING TO AMERICA HE PERFECTED HIS FIRST (LARGE) STEAMSHIP, THE CLERMONT, AND THIS LAID THE FOUNDATION FIRST FOR HIS OWN GREAT SUCCESS AS A BOAT-BUILDER AND ENGINEER.

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## Huge Parade of Elks is Finale For Convention

SEATTLE, July 10.—(AP)—A mammoth parade viewed by tens of thousands of spectators Thursday, followed at night by balls honoring new grand lodge officers and a carnival, brought the 67th annual national Elks convention to a close.

## Skeleton Found, In Shaft Clears Up Old Mystery

MUNCIE, Ind., July 10.—(AP)—The skeleton of a youth found in an air shaft in the Central high school Thursday was tentatively identified in fact as that of Perlie Guelsh, missing since December 16, 1923.

## Big Grass Fire Takes One Life

FRESNO, Cal., July 10.—(AP)—Brush, grass and forest fires which for a week have burned about 100,000 acres in central California, claimed their first life Thursday.