

# The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"  
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## Getting the Road Facts

"We report with pleasure that the Salem Statesman, hitherto willing to see the new construction program on the existing state highway system cut down to a few roads of major importance, has now announced a change of heart. In giving us what it calls 'a succinct statement' of its position on highway affairs this fact appears as the second article. 'The Statesman,' it says, 'favors completing the roads of the state's primary highway system.'"

"That is very good. It has been with considerable concern that we have read what the Statesman has formerly said on this subject and noted its apparent willingness to make plans for the highways on a basis other than equal treatment to all. This was the course involving gross unfairness to sections and communities interested in still unfinished roads on the present system—communities whose funds have helped to build the roads that the Statesman now wants widened and further improved."

"Of course, having offered its approval of expenditures on the Pacific highway which it agreed were not necessary the Statesman could hardly do otherwise than favor the completion of those sections of the primary system highways that as yet have not been touched. Other points of that paper's statement include a reduction in license fees with no increase in gas tax, no additions to the system and widening and improving the major trunk highways. These it has urged before but never with due regard to all the facts, including the moral obligation of the state to finish the system before reducing the revenue."

"If the Statesman has now acquainted itself with the facts and takes its position for a lower license fee with full knowledge of what the results will be and a preference for these results instead of others differently achieved we cannot say that it is wrong. It is conclusions drawn from an incorrect understanding of the facts with which we make our quarrel. We quarrel, too, with the mental attitude that approves the unnecessary thing at home and proposes to neglect the necessary thing elsewhere."

"But is the Statesman in the habit of getting the facts? Referring to our question as to the width of the right of way of the Pacific highway north of Salem the Statesman says it is 90 feet. Now our information is that except for a few stretches of a few hundred feet each the width between Salem and New Era, the section on which the Statesman would have work found for the unemployed, is only 60 feet. We invite the Statesman to look further into this question and if it finds that the width is in fact 60 feet and not 90 feet we ask again for an answer to our question as to the sum the highway commission may properly spend in the Salem vicinity for right of way in order that the unemployed of the vicinity may be employed."—Bond Bulletin.

"We have no idea where the Bulletin got the notion that the Statesman was 'willing to see the new construction program on the existing highway system cut down to a few roads of major importance.' We have consistently and persistently favored completing the system as previously outlined. As the end of this task is now in sight we have favored sharply reducing the burden on the motorist by reducing the motor license fee without increasing the gas tax. That goes so far as our road policy is concerned. There is now arising the matter of unemployment; and we are frank to concede that rather than let people starve or support them with doles it is better for the state to provide employment on roads or public works. Work of this emergency character should be paid for by taxation. When the emergency passes then the state should develop a long-time road program which will be less costly to the individual motorist than it has been the past decade."

"We find on further inquiry that Judge Sawyer is correct as to the width of the Pacific highway. The width most of the way from here to New Era is 60 feet, which makes it necessary to buy right-of-way before the road can be made either a three- or a four-lane highway. We cannot answer its inquiry as to the sum the highway commission may properly spend for right-of-way in order to provide employment on roads. The commission will have to answer that question. What we have tried to emphasize is that emergency relief work should be for beneficial uses and not wasted effort and money. In this territory the road work which would be of the greatest benefit would be the widening of the highway north to New Era."

**A Worthy Reappointment**  
THE announcement of the reappointment of A. A. Schramm as state superintendent of banking is good news for the state banks and for the public whom the banks serve. Mr. Schramm has been giving an able and constructive service to the banks of the state. After several years of service in the position he has a clear understanding of the banking problems and is working with banks to solve these problems. An efficient bank superintendent can help banks to keep out of trouble, and can help them over such difficulties as arise in the normal conduct of their business. Schramm is rendering this service in a manner which is highly efficient. It would be a serious mistake to make a change in the department now when conditions are unsettled for a continuity of policy is highly desirable.

Oregon is going through the pains of a deflation period with comparatively few bank failures. This is in large measure due to the vigilance and the constructive suggestions made by Supt. Schramm and his assistants. We want our banks to be strong and solvent; and when they operate under the careful scrutiny of the state department as now administered we may be assured that they will continue safe and trustworthy institutions.

**Low Building Costs**  
IF there is anything in demand being stimulated by low prices, conditions are surely ripe for a revival of building. Construction costs are now down to nearer the pre-war level than at any time since 1916. The costs are some 30% less than in 1926. It is commonly accepted that material costs cannot go any lower in many commodities such as lumber which is now selling at less than cost of production. The Salem chapter of the Oregon building congress is publishing in this issue of The Statesman a comparison of prices. Any people who are contemplating building should study these comparisons. Now is assuredly the time to build if one wants a structure well-built at very low cost. Prosperity hinges largely on the revival of construction; and construction will surely revive in view of the retarded building of the past two years, the low costs of present work, and the demands which a steadily increasing population makes for additional residence and commercial structures.

## Country Babies

By VERNON A. DOUGLAS, M. D.  
Marion Co. Health Dept.

A former article dealt with tuberculosis in Marion county, in controlling this condition as well as many other ailments ultimately to the child and from there to the mother and from there to her mother and so on. And this has led to a special division of public prenatal and maternal hygiene. It has been demonstrated

Dr. V. A. Douglas over and over again that if mothers and babies who have had the advantages of good and early—prenatal care have a much better chance of surviving and remaining healthy than those who have not. This is especially true when nursing, prenatal care and instruction is combined with direction an advice of a physician. Not only may conditions dangerous to the mother develop unexpectedly if regular examinations and instruction are not received but the child also has a much better chance of becoming and remaining a strong and vigorous adult when proper foods, exercise, rest and treatment are utilized by the mother.

The child before he is born is really a parasite upon her and may flourish at the expense of the mother's tissues. At this expense to motherhood the babies who have lived have continued the race through to the present in a fairly healthy state. But hosts of mothers have been sacrificed while many babies have been handicapped from the start and in many instances have become burdens on the community later in life. We find that some mothers are hesitant about going to their doctors early for one reason or another. Many there are who do not see the need of it and wait until the last minute before calling the doctor. The doctor unacquainted with the case is thus handicapped in not knowing the exact condition of the mother or what difficulties to prepare for.

Many infants die because of deaths of mothers far this year in Marion county. Thirty infants under one year of age, however have died. This is twelve more than last year for the same period although the birth rate has been practically the same. The starting part of these figures is that 25 of the mothers of these infants went through pregnancy without nursing prenatal instruction. Two or three had some nursing assistance a week or two before the baby arrived but this is hardly long enough to influence the condition of mother or baby. Nursing instruction is available to all expectant mothers by the health department as an effective means of preventing infants from dying during that most dangerous first year.

As was true of tuberculosis, most of the infants who have died this year have been rural babies. 24 out of the 29, and only three of these had had nursing prenatal care. In all parts of the United States similar figures point to the need for further development of rural health services so that infant deaths, tuberculosis and other health hazards may be eliminated. Farming districts are entitled to all the health advantages of modern cities. This will come in time, making rural districts, with the other conveniences of the modern city, the ideal place in which to live.

What health problems have you? If the above article raises any question in your mind, write that question and send it either to The Statesman or the Marion county department of health. The answer will appear in this column, should be signed, but will not be used in the paper.

## New Views

"What do you think of Senator McNary's statement that 20,000-000 bushels of government-owned wheat should be shipped to China?" This question was asked yesterday by Statesman reporters.

E. Bookman, accountant: "I'm not in favor of the wheat being sent to China; it will involve too much 'high financing.'"

Lloyd Baker, mechanic: "If the China proposition will help out the American market, I'm for it."

Guy O. Smith, attorney: "I don't know. I wouldn't want to commit myself. Offhand I would say it looks feasible."

H. O. White, grain buyer and seller: "I think they should get rid of it. You can be sure the farm board is going to be active just as long as any high-salaried jobs are left."

Walter Lankin, circuit court clerk: "No, they should grind it into flour and give it to poor folks in this country."

Elmer D. Cook, attorney: "I took a man home to dinner today who had not eaten a square meal for two weeks; he at least could have been eating wheat. Yes, it's too bad some people here can't have some of that wheat."

Jag Brown, student: "Sure, let China have it; anything to get rid of the surplus."

## Daily Thought

"Cato used to assert that wise men profited more by fools than fools by wise men; for that wise men avoided the faults of fools, but that fools would not imitate the good examples of wise men."—Plutarch.

## HERE'S HOW

By EDSON



Tomorrow: Insects Destroy Labor of 1,000,000 men.

## BITS for BREAKFAST

By R. J. HENDRICKS

Some bright spots: It is said the celery growers of the Salem district, mostly in the Labish section, are receiving higher prices for their product than the average since that industry was started here, and that instead of having a surplus they could sell at the same level 500 more cars than the current crop will total.

Also, that the price for the onions of that district, along the "million dollar highway," is looking up—onions that for keeping qualities rank with the best grown in the world. Why? It is the sulphur; the sulphur that in some ways was accumulated with 10,000 years or more of washings from higher levels, and the annual secretions from decaying vegetable growths, in what was once a lake—Lake Labish; that is, the Deer lake. Biche is French for hind, the female of the red deer or stag. It is also French for a gay woman, and the epithet, son of a biche, means the son of a gay, or bad, woman. La Biche is French for the deer lake.

Some Labish onions have recently been sold for \$1 per 100 pound sack. The best Labish growers can produce 500 sacks to the acre, and the average from their former high yield of 300 sacks. They have peculiar conditions, in that the more succession onion crops they grow, when they know how, the higher the yield. Does the reader know of any other crop, any where, with which that is true? And there is good money in \$1 onions. It means \$600 gross per acre for the best Labish district growers. Times have been when Labish onions have commanded a premium of 75 cents per 100 pounds in the Chicago market, owing to their superior keeping qualities, imparted to them by the sulphur in the soil.

The walnut and filbert growers of this district, too, are sitting pretty, with prospective bumper crops, and an outlook for fair and perhaps good prices. This is the greatest walnut district on earth, in quality output combined with low overhead. That is, comparatively cheap land, and little or no necessity for irrigation. The high quality comes largely from peculiarity of combination of soil, sunshine and showers, and an absence of extremely hot weather in harvesting time, thus giving us freedom from melting of the oil in the nut, discoloring and rendering

Our paper mill is keeping up its 24 hours a day payroll, and it is about as large as it has ever been. It is our greatest individual private payroll; around \$40,000 a month. The converting plant is going along swimmingly and normally.

Our flax and linen industries are more than making time, taking as a whole; making progress. One day, this will be the greatest of all Oregon industries. It would pay the state of Oregon to borrow enough money on low interest bonds to bring this consummation in a hurry; in a few short years. This is perhaps too much to expect. But the prediction will surely come true, in good time.

The above are some of the bright spots. There are many others. The Salem district has much to be thankful for, and Salem as a whole; making progress from melting of the oil in the nut, discoloring and rendering

## BOBBED HAired WOMEN NEEDN'T HAVE GRAY HAIR

Nature Will Keep Hair Youthful Shade Free Of Gray

REGAINS OLD BEAUTY

Everybody knows if color glands and hair roots are healthy and active, the hair will continue indefinitely a rich, natural color entirely free of gray or streaked locks. A doctor several years ago asked himself this question: If I can stimulate digestion, liver, heart, etc., with a tonic, why not rub a stimulating tonic into the scalp that will revive those inactive glands so nature in her own natural way will resume putting plenty of new growth into the hair tubes—surely the hair will then resume its original beautiful shade of youth regardless of user's age or previous condition of their hair.

## REMARKABLE DISCOVERY

The doctor's search led to endless experiments. He didn't want a dye or tint, and it, of course, must be harmless even if a person used it many years. Under the name, Lea's Hair Tonic, any one may now purchase the tonic he finally perfected. For several years hairdressers, scattered over the country have been using it. Results are so nice and gradual

## 'The Mystery of Geraldine' By Anthony ABBOT

CHAPTER XXXII  
Thatcher Colt gravely shook his head. Out of a wall-closet he brought a small black bag, like that of a medical man. This bag he placed on the table where the lie detector machine had rested, then, by the buzzer in his chair, he recalled the two police men who presently led into us again the still firm-jawed but considerably paler Doctor Humphrey Maskell.  
Thatcher Colt rose suddenly from his chair and held out his hand.  
"Doctor Maskell," he exclaimed, "if you are a murderer, you are a wonder. You have shown colossal nerve to submit to this examination."  
The doctor smiled. As late as he was, he did not realize the trick that was being played upon him. Criminals and honest men, too, like to be told they are bold and clever. Vanity is one of the greatest weaknesses of crook and saint alike.  
"Is your nerve still good?" asked Thatcher Colt, with a trace of skepticism in his low voice.  
"What is it now?" asked the doctor, the contempt again coming into his tone. "The trial by fire and water, like the ancient savages? Or divination by birds? Or what?"  
The Truth Serum  
"Have you ever heard of scopalamine?" asked Thatcher Colt.  
"Yes. Erroneously called the 'truth serum' in the newspapers."  
The doctor folded his hands and studied Thatcher Colt keenly.  
"Why should I subject myself to a charlatan's drug when I don't have to?" he snapped. "As I understand it, you have no legal right to use the machine or the drug on me? I think I have been too acquiescent—now I am about fed up."  
Thatcher Colt nodded.  
"Correct," he admitted. "You are not compelled to do what I ask. Neither the lie detector nor the truth drug have ever been officially adopted by the Police Department of New York, although other cities, including Los Angeles have officially adopted them."  
"The truth drug?" The doctor's voice was incredulous, full of scorn of the orthodox man of medicine. "A drug to make a man tell the truth—against interest, as the lawyers say. It must be a most remarkable concoction. Did you invent it?"  
"Scopalamine," replied Thatcher Colt, "was first presented to the police by a physician and criminologist, Doctor R. E. House, of Ferris, Texas."  
Doctor Maskell now wore the expression of a skeptical medical man facing an empiric; for the moment he forgot that he was a prisoner.  
"What is the theory of this drug to which you want me to entrust my life?"  
"The principle is very simple," returned Thatcher Colt. "You are aware of the most active and the most powerful of the five senses is the sense of hearing. This sense of hearing—with its super-sensitivity and super-activity—is the last sense to be annihilated under the influence of an anesthetic. Also it is the first sense to be reawakened when the effect of the anesthetic wears off. Long after we cannot see or feel, taste or smell anything on the operating table, we can still hear—and we can still talk."  
"True, nodded Doctor Maskell.  
"If you have ever faintly, you may recall that before you opened your eyes you heard sounds, voices of people around you, or other disturbances. There is a period of time in which you hear, but are still not really conscious—yet asserted itself."  
"Yes."  
"Well, there is where scopalamine comes in. It lulls all the other senses to sleep except hearing. It is the theory of the inventor—and I may add of myself—that during that period when you can hear, but cannot exercise your other senses, it is impossible, even for a clever man like yourself, to tell a lie."  
"Humph!" said Doctor Maskell, enigmatically, with a strong look at Thatcher Colt. "This is a real challenge. You maintain that under the influence of this drug I could not exercise my will power to withhold the answer to any questions, if I so wished?"  
"Exactly."  
"And do these super-scientists who equip the police with these marvelous police devices have no fear that the instinct for self-preservation may not interfere with your pretty little medicine?"  
"A large number of cases show that it does not," replied Thatcher Colt. "I could sit here and cite cases to you, but there isn't time. The stuttering young man of Meridian, Tex., was one example. There was also the case of O'Leary, known as the walking dead man."  
Doctor Maskell smiled with a trace of malice.  
"Do you think that District Attorney Dougherty would be convinced if I maintained my innocence under the influence of the drug?" he asked mockingly.  
Thatcher Colt calmly relighted his pipe.  
"The district attorney wants the truth as much as you or I," he argued.  
"I'll try anything once," declared Dougherty, his head to one side, as he closed one eye and looked at Maskell skeptically. Strange that both these men, each distrusting the other, equally distrusted the drug of truth. Suddenly Doctor Maskell came to a resolution. He stood up, took off his coat, rolled up his sleeve, and bared his large, heavily muscled arm, bristling with long, black hairs.  
"Let's go," was all he said.  
All the notes of what was said and done there, after the needle was plunged into the doctor's arm and he was stretched out on a couch in Thatcher Colt's library, now lie before me. They are the most unusual I have ever taken

in any criminal case, for they show Doctor Maskell speaking without any reserve whatsoever. Stretched out there, he was utterly relaxed. His eyes were closed. His breathing was deep and regular. His voice was first heavy and decisive and almost around in its importance, but gradually it sank into a monotone, like the murmur of a sick person talking in a fevered sleep.

At a Disadvantage  
"Doctor, did you kill Geraldine Foster?"  
"I did not."  
"Did you attack her with an axe?"  
"I did not."  
"Did you hate Geraldine Foster?"  
"No."  
"Did you love her?"  
"No."  
"Did you have any reason to kill Geraldine Foster?"  
"Yes."  
"We all leaned forward toward the prostrate doctor as he made that confession. The silence was intense, until Thatcher Colt's brittle voice broke the silence.  
"What reason did you have to kill her?"  
"Because she threatened someone I love."  
"To whom did she threaten to betray you?"  
"To another woman."  
"Who is this other woman?"  
"My wife!"  
We looked at each other in astonishment. I suppose that I, pose that I, too, am a sentimentalist. But in the face of this amazing confession, I felt some kind of compassion for the helplessness of this strong man, this giant who possessed over himself such vast self-control, but who now lay like a fevered child, telling on himself. But if Thatcher Colt shared my feeling, he did not show any indications of it. Boldly he shot the next question.  
"Your wife! How long have you been married?"  
"Fourteen years."  
"When did you separate?"  
"Ten years ago."  
"You were not divorced?"  
"No!"  
The voice of the doctor had become very weary.  
"She will not give me a divorce. That was why I went away. To Reno. But I came back when—"

"When what?"  
"When I saw that Geraldine was really missing and that it looked funny about me."  
"What did Geraldine threaten?"  
"To expose a beautiful love—drag it through the courts—and blacken the name of one I love."  
"Who is that one?"  
"I won't—answer—that."  
"How did Geraldine Foster know about your wife?"  
"I don't know."  
"Didn't you ask her?"  
"No."  
"Why?"  
"I had no opportunity."  
Then Thatcher Colt came back to that old sensitive spot in the doctor's mind.  
Still the Master  
"Why are you so stubborn about where you spent the time (Continued on page 11)

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