

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
From First Statesman, March 29, 1851

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Spaulding a Billiken?

THE Portland Journal jumps all over Charles Spaulding because he "publicly attacks his colleagues. He attacks the engineers. He makes insinuations," etc., and so writer, et al. And the Journal proceeds to attack him personally in a vicious, below-the-belt fashion.

All because the Journal has H. B. Van Duzer on the commission as its pet. Van Duzer is a SACRED NAME which must not be taken in vain. Van Duzer must be allowed to continue to run the commission. Van Duzer must be allowed to call the commission to meet at his own whim as to time and place. With the Journal it is Van Duzer this and Van Duzer that, till the whole highway program is vanduzered to the limit.

The Journal is extremely solicitous about any concessions to contractors and tries to make out that Spaulding is a tool of wicked, conniving contractors who want to slip something over on the state. But when it comes to any irregularity within the highway department which Spaulding would like to bring to light of day, why the Journal goes hush, hush; you mustn't touch the ark of the covenant which is Van Duzer.

Well, Van Duzer has been a very good member of the commission; has given generously of his time and his ability. But we ask the Journal, is this to be a one-man commission? Is Van Duzer to have the full say about the highways of Oregon?

The Journal insists that these "indefensible attacks by Spaulding on his unoffending colleagues be stopped, that he become an orderly and sane commissioner such as Oregon has always had." In other words, Charley, shut up and let the Journal and its man run the highway program of the state.

Well, now as we understood at the time, Spaulding was put on the commission by Gov. Meier not to be "an orderly and sane commissioner", to just be a billiken, "say no evil, speak no evil, hear no evil". Instead he was put on there to probe into the whole works, bring to light whatever of inefficiency, slothfulness or graft might have developed during the years. Perhaps there is none; but why try to bottle everything up like the Journal is trying to do? Open the door and let the truth out.

The Statesman does not agree with Spaulding in some of the things he advocates and has confidence in the general administration of the highway department under Klein, but Spaulding is a member of the commission duly appointed by the governor and we object to his being vanduzered by the Portland Journal or anyone else.

In the Week's News

SUNDAY again. "O day of rest and gladness" as the hymn runs. It gives us a chance to look back over a week as stirring as any in the decade. How fast things happen, how crowded with big news are the day's papers. Pause a moment and reflect on the happenings of the past week:

Great Britain suspended the gold standard, and for a week markets have vibrated as wildly as a crazy ammeter on an automobile.

Three transatlantic fliers, given up for lost, are picked up by a passing ship after they had clung to floating wreckage for 148 hours.

Great industries slash wages, and the old agreement with Pres. Hoover in 1929 to maintain wages is cast aside in the face of economic necessity.

War looms in the far east, but the threat fades as pressure from other countries induces Japan to cease further aggression in Manchuria.

The American Legion meets in Detroit; endorses resubmission of the 18th amendment; withholds pleas for cash bonus.

And the week was no less busy in local affairs. Here is a list of the "big stories" of the week:

Public schools open; Willamette university classes resume.

City council turns down proposal for election on big bond issue for Santiam water.

Football starts again.

Great drive to support prohibition carried forward by Allied Forces.

Salem stores put on Fall Opening.

State fair opens, the 77th exhibition.

Now how is that for a week of stirring events? Is the day of the newspaper done? Well hardly. So long as things happen the facts must be set down accurately, quickly, clearly; and there is no substitute for the modern daily newspaper as a means of keeping people informed.

Take Your Choice

THE swinging jaws in pool halls and pullmans, in parlors and pantries have made many and wide assignment of the causes of the hard times. Here is a list, which is by no means complete, and every one of them is regarded by individuals or groups as the sure-fire cause of the flattening of business. We often find papers vamping it all on one cause today and then tomorrow have a different scapegoat for the ills of the times. Take your pick, or add to the list as you choose:

- Prohibition
 - War Reparations
 - Tariff
 - Low price of silver
 - Hoover
 - Armaments
 - Gold standard
 - Low price of wheat
 - The dole
 - Wall Street
- And the cures are just as many and as uncertain as the causes.

Mayor Baker has to blow back his \$600 salary for the extra month he spent in France. It's an ill wind, etc.

Now the men are debating whether it is safer to go deer hunting or to accompany wife to a bridge party.

So far the men haven't thought of dressing up like Mr. Empress Eugenie.

Year Around School

By C. C. DAUER, M. D.,
Marion County Dept. of Health

A few days ago there appeared in one of the Portland papers the statement that a certain man advised that the school should be shortened.

The idea of shortening the number of years of school; in other words the average child would finish school a year sooner than is usually the case now.

An editorial the next day deplored such a plan but one argument, the most important of all, against such a plan was not mentioned, the effect on the child's health.

Dr. C. C. Dauer
Many people do not realize or consider that school life is a drain on the vitality of many children.

Children are compelled to attend school during the period of their lives when great increases of growth take place, both physical and mental. Schooling in the child's life has come to be an increased school activities rather than a decrease which is needed. Our high schools today should rather than increase the school work, curriculum and extra-curricular.

For the reasons given, it is evident, from the standpoint of health, that year-around schools would be very unwise.

What health problems have you? If the above article raises any question in your mind then the Statesman or the Marion County Department of Health, the answer will appear in this column. Names should be signed, but will not be used in the paper.

Competent medical authority advises that any change takes place, in so far as hours of school are concerned, there should be fewer hours. It has been especially advised that children in the first and second grades attend school less than half the year.

Another period of school life during which fewer hours of school are advisable is during the adolescent age, a time of rapid physical growth as well as a period of emotional instability. This period of school life has been found to be one when there is an increased incidence of tuberculosis. More cases of tuberculosis in children develop at this period than any other time during the school period.

The amount of land owned has been increased several times. But the original tract is still a part of the holdings. The grove used for the camp grounds is a part of the original tract.

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BITS for BREAKFAST

By R. J. HENDRICKS

The 77th state fair:

The Oregon state fair now in session has been advertised as the 70th. It is more than that. It is the 77th Oregon state fair.

A magazine article tells of this state fair being a celebration of the 70th birthday of the institution. Its 70th birthday fell away back in 1924; seven years ago.

One will find in the Salem Directory for 1924 an article that was lifted from the 1871 Directory, reading:

"The first agricultural society on the Pacific coast was organized at Salem April 6, 1854. Governor John W. Davis, president, and Joseph G. Wilson, secretary. The first agricultural fair was held at Salem October 1, 1854. Hon. L. F. Grover delivered the address. In this address the establishment of woolen mills, the introduction of the Cashmere or Angora goat and the steam plow were recommended. The following year the officers were R. C. Geer, president; Joseph Cox, vice president; Joseph G. Wilson, secretary, and C. A. Reed, treasurer.

"The society held several fairs, and for some time was an active and energetic organization, but becoming involved in debt, the city sold its land to Marion County and transferred it to the State Agricultural Society on the pledge that they would hold annual fairs for 15 consecutive years, and if the society failed to do so the land should revert to Marion County. The society so far has fulfilled their part of the contract."

Joseph G. Wilson became prominent; held several important offices and was elected to congress. L. F. Grover edited The Statesman in the absence of Hon. A. Hughes and was chosen as governor twice, and went to the United States senate. Ralph C. Geer was the pioneer newspaperman, held important offices and was leader in many ways. The address of Grover brought fruit; two years later the first woolen mill (first on the coast) was opened here, and with a grand ball, high by the grandeur of the candles at which Phil Sheridan was a prominent figure.

The deed from Marion County to the Oregon State Agricultural Society was made July 7, 1864. Fair had been held here for 10 years, and they have been held every year since, including the one of 1864. The deed to Marion county was made on April 1, 1863.

The state fair became a true state fair, belonging to the commonwealth, in 1891. The legislature of that year passed an act taking the property from the deed from the Oregon State Agricultural Society to the State Board of Agriculture was made November 6, 1891. Since then the property has belonged to the state and has been managed under acts of the legislature.

Clearly, the first Oregon fair was in 1854. It makes this the 77th Oregon state fair. By no construction can it be said to be only the 70th state fair. As Rev. Judson wrote, the society that originated it was the first agricultural society on the Pacific coast, and, by the same sign, the fair of 1854; on the grounds where the present fair is being held, was the first agricultural fair on the Pacific coast. It is the daddy of them all.

Who is responsible for calling this the 77th Oregon state fair? The writer does not know. By what set of facts he or she reasoned in reaching the conclusion is unable to get from the incidents in connection with the fair's history.

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“The Czarina’s Rubies”

By SIDNEY WARWICK

READ THIS FIRST

Katharine Farina, granddaughter of a Russian prince, is the rightful owner of the missing Czarina rubies of sinister fame and fabulous value. Trying to recover them for her, Paul Poddoroff is murdered at Moskelliver, a vacant country house, and Frank Severn is kidnaped and carried there unconscious. His servant, Creyke, is murdered.

Jim Wynter, friend of Severn and of Katharine, tries to rescue Severn, injured and drugged; he awakens in the home of mysterious Dr. Martell. Recovering he takes Katharine and his friends, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Grayson, to Severn's country home, Beggar's Court. There a search reveals a concealed staircase and a locked door in the ruins of an ancient chapel. The stub of one of Dr. Martell's cigarettes lies on the stairs.

Sant, Severn's lawyer, suddenly appears.

It is spread over more ground. It has more and better buildings and improvements. The exhibits are larger and better, generally. The whole of the 200-odd acres in the present holdings will ere long be overcrowded with a continuation of the progress of the last few years.

More rooms will be soon required, and it will be wise for the management to be looking forward to securing additional land, if it may be bought or optioned, on terms such as available resources will justify—with a little leeway for an optimistic vision of what the future has in store for our section and our state.

Seventy-seven years. Not long. But quite a period in measuring the whole history of Oregon. Three more years, and the 80th anniversary may be celebrated, with offerings attracting wider attention than the 54th and the 69th, the 85th. And what a great time may be looked forward to by the younger members of the community (like the writer) in 1951!

Be sure that you do not miss it. Nor the present great 77th annual Oregon state fair.

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"Sant, key or no key, it's got to be opened at once," said Wynter.

"What's behind that locked door, Sant?" demanded Wynter abruptly.

"Blessed if I know! Can't say I am particularly inquisitive, either. A colony of rats, I expect. I've never seen the inside of the crypt and don't know anyone who has. There's been no key so far as I know since I had to do with the place." Sant said. "I once tried some old keys I found in the house. No luck at all."

"You didn't mention this crypt to the police when you disappeared," said Wynter suddenly.

"Well, no, frankly, I never thought of it. Not that there would have been much point in doing so, would there, even if I had?"

"Doesn't it strike you as likely that it was here Severn was brought after he'd been kidnaped? We know he wasn't driven away from Beggar's Court this morning."

Sant had struck a match for a cigarette he had taken from his case, but he forgot to light it as he turned a suddenly startled face towards the other man.

"I hadn't thought of that. But—oh, that's absurd. Must be! That door can't have been opened for years."

How do we know that? Severn might even have been lying here in the open between these walls, gagged and unable to cry out—and neither the police nor I, only a few yards away, as much as a suspicion of that doorway. It could hardly have been better hidden if it had been deliberately contrived, could it?" he asked pointedly.

Sant stared at him as if puzzled.

"How do you mean, deliberately contrived? Good Lord, Wynter—but of course, you're joking! Just the way the ivy grows—and why shouldn't it? So far as I know no one goes through that doorway once a blue moon."

Wynter gave a shrug.

"Well, someone's been through that doorway and down those steps within the last two or three days, anyway," he retorted. "And I fancy I could put my name to that someone's first name. Sant, why should Martell be interested in this underground door?"

Sant seemed astonished at the point-blank challenge.

"Martell?" he echoed. "But why on earth should anyone suppose it or even that Martell has ever been to Beggar's Court?"

"Well, I was rather under the impression I saw his face at one of the windows within the last half hour.