

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
From First Statesman, March 28, 1851

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Salaries of Railroad Presidents

HOW much salary should a railroad president get? That is a hard question to answer, particularly at present when all railroads are failing to earn decent percentages on their investment and most of them have dropped dividends. The commerce commission reports that these salaries are the highest, for Pennsylvania, which is the biggest system in the country is \$135,000. This must represent a 10% cut which most roads have imposed on all ranks of employees. There are many roads paying \$90,000 a year, which evidently is a cut from \$100,000. The Southern Pacific pays \$90,000; Great Northern \$60,000; Northern Pacific \$50,000; Union Pacific \$90,000.

It reads like big money; and it is big money. As a rule however these are big men who carry a tremendous load of responsibility. They have to take care of interests of shippers, have to satisfy the demands of employees, have to explain to stockholders why they can pay them big dividends, have to satisfy the interstate commerce commission, and the regulatory bodies of every state they operate in, have to keep on speaking terms with their bankers so money will come in for capital investment, have to deal gently with local chambers of commerce and learn to say no without causing offense, have to guard against competition by other roads, by trucks, water lines, etc. They have little domestic life because they are shunted around from one end of the system to another.

Railroad presidents do not get near the compensation of men in big industries. The president of American Tobacco company gets nearly a million in salary and bonus. Pres. Grace of Bethlehem Steel was getting over a million with his big bonus. These concerns are not responsible to the government and some of them never make it known even to stockholders what the executives get. When the government is good they get plenty.

Publicity of salaries of corporation executives would appear to be a wholesome thing where these corporations have large public ownership of stocks or where like utilities and railroads they are charged with a public responsibility.

Compared with salaries of public officials or with the incomes of small business the pay of these railroad presidents seems high; but if measured in terms of the responsibility carried and the compensation for men of similar grade in industrial companies the wages are not excessive. Doubtless many of the railroad presidents think they are overworked and underpaid the same as other employees.

No Occasion for "Thrills"

CURIOSITY and the expectation of seeing some thrills drew hundreds of people to Olympia for the Fourth to witness the arrival of the army of unemployed who were marching on the capitol. The news report intimates that "most persons present were disappointed" when nothing happened, that is, nothing happened like fighting and clashing with the police, a few broken heads and cracked noses.

That is a queer avatism which is dissatisfied unless there are thrills and wounds. It would seem that the spectacle of many men and women marching to the seat of government if only in blind protest against a blind order which dooms them to idleness would excite sorrow and pity rather than what the lust for seeing some blood flow. We are inclined to think the reporter was wrong, that the spectators while curious, were relieved rather than disappointed when the assembly ended peaceably.

In Seattle the men and women out of work have attempted an organization on rather a large scale. It is distinctly designed to provide self-support; and has attracted considerable attention from other communities. Society is fortunate that there have been no outbreaks of the order of the Haymarket riot in 1894. Men driven to desperation rise in protest, even if their effort be a futile gesture. So the march of the jobless to city halls or state capitols or to Washington should inspire renewed effort to start once more the wheels of industry that these men may again be on payrolls, and that consumers who now pinch down severely on actual needs may once more get for consumption the products of mills and mines and factories.

Greek Meets Greek

THOSE who have a taste for the ancient and manly art of wrestling enjoyed a stirring exhibition out at the fair grounds Monday night. It was a tense two hours. Our regret was that the frigid breath off Mt. Hood drove us to leave after the first fall so we missed the exciting second hour. Jones of Utah and Robin Reed of Reedsport are two men about as evenly matched in skill, strength and endurance as appear on the mat. We saw them first in a go at Albany a number of years ago. That time Jones won over Reed. Later Reed captured the title Jones held and the belt was at stake here Monday night. The result was a draw so Reed retains his title; but it was a draw after grueling punishment which must have left the combatants utterly exhausted.

This fellow Jones is an "old man", said to be over 50 years old; which is pretty old for so strenuous a contest as wrestling. But he has shoulders and arms of tremendous strength. Reed is cleverer with his feet, and in wrestling feet are almost as important as arms. Not pretending to be a real fan on the game we can express no opinion except that if anyone wants to see a varied assortment of wrestling grips matched with marvelous agility in extricating themselves from the same, he is fully repaid when he sees Jones and Reed in a match like they staged Monday night.

"Are you registered?" That is always the initial inquiry used to break the ice in approaching a prospect. Or rather the prospect does the approaching and the woman with the initiative petition she is getting signers for merely stands in the stream of traffic and hails folk as they come along. If a person admits being registered as voter the worker shoves the petition under his nose and puts a pencil in his hand. A little fast work in telling what the bill is on, and the easy mark signs and goes on his way. Another nickel or dime for the worker. Another exercise of the sovereign right to legislate on the part of the great American people. Some folk know what they are signing; others don't know and merely sign to be accommodated. What would happen if circulating of these petitions on streets were abolished? One thing sure, it would stop a lot of measures from ever getting on the ballot.

Crickets and grasshoppers march out of obscurity onto the front pages as the major pest of summer.

Yesterdays

... Of Old Salem

Town Talks from The Statesman of Earlier Days

July 6, 1907
Oregon claims the honor of counting among its residents the oldest white woman in America, Mrs. Mary Ramsey Lemons Wood. She was crowned queen of Oregon at the July 4 celebration at Portland.

The Albany Herald has published accusations against Salem hotels of "hold-up and grafting methods." At the recent state teachers' convention here, it charges, "the hotels and lodging houses have taken advantage of the great demand for sleeping rooms and have formed a combination or trust, whereby it is impossible to obtain a night's lodging without paying from \$1.50 to \$2."

The Salem cherry fair and flower festival to be held July 10-12 is attracting attention in California and as far east as Washington, D. C.

July 6, 1922
DALLAS.—James Brooks and Archie Wilkerson, inmates of the Polk county jail, broke out sometime early July 4 morning and made a clean getaway. Brooks had attempted to escape before.

Seven separate kinds of errors, inaccuracies and unlawful practices that are alleged to have gotten to Ben W. Olcott a seeming plurality of 521 votes in the recent primary election for governor are set forth in a contest filed yesterday for Senator Charles Hall in the circuit court here.

According to many protests, the council last night ordered Traffic Officer Birtchett to discontinue use of his manually-operated semaphore at State and Commercial streets.

The Safety Valve--

Letters from Statesman Readers

Under the head of "New Views" in The Oregon Statesman of Wednesday we observed your question, "Are you finding more earwigs this year than normally?"

There are undoubtedly many more earwigs in the gardens, orchards and door-yards in Salem this year than ever before and we have been making somewhat of a study of these pests.

We find that they come out from their hiding places soon after nightfall and swarm upon the roses and other flowers and shrubs and eat holes in the blossoms and leaves. They also crawl all over the outside walls of the homes up to a height of the second story. They also crawl over porch floors, posts and ceilings and if there is a crevice at the top or bottom of a door or window they enter the home.

Vines and shrubs growing up against the home make ideal breeding grounds and hiding places for them and wood corded up in your back yard will be found alive with them.

At the approach of dawn each day they seek their hiding places and are comparatively safe from the ravages of birds and chickens. We have found poultry yards to be infested with earwigs the same as lawns, shrubs and flower gardens as earwigs only work during nighttime.

In trapping experiments we recently tried taking four pages of a newspaper, crumpling it up in

BITS for BREAKFAST

By R. J. HENDRICKS

The 50-52 myth:

(Continuing from yesterday):

"Two of the committee were absent May 2nd and of course did not vote. It is also to be noted that Caleb Wilkins was listed as one of the 52 up to a very recent date, but that in the last Champagne Programme his name is eliminated and Adam Hewitt's is substituted instead. Why is not explained. Is it not probable that both Hewitt and Wilkins were present and voted for organization? As to Mr. Rigdon's analysis of the controversies of Gray and Hines, I express no opinion, but Bancroft (Vol. 1, page 302) quotes Moss, Crawford, White, Waldo, Roberts, Tolmie, Evans, Victor, Strong, Blomquist, Barnett, and Applegate, besides Howell, as taking issue against Gray."

"Summing up the matter as to the vote on organization May 2, 1843, counting out Hines from the 52, although all of them except Hewitt are continually listed among the 52, we have a vote as follows: For organization 55; against organization 46—with later returns in the office. Chas. B. Moore, Portland, Oregon, June 6, 1927."

"Soon after this exposure of the fraudulent bit of history, letters from people among whom were Mr. Russell, B. Thomas and Leslie M. Scott and others began to flow into the Historical Quarterly. As the Quarterly is not a paper of general circulation, I ask the favor of the Oregonian that a few of these letters be admitted here-in."

"It would appear as reasonable that the controversy on this subject should cease and all agree that the old story of 50 and 52 should be relegated to the realm of romance. W. T. Rigdon, Salem, Oregon."

On May 23, 1932, J. Nelson Barry, Greenhill, Route 5, Portland, Oregon, wrote to W. T. Rigdon as follows:

"I was much interested in the reference to your letter in the editorial of the Oregonian today, while regretting that while having had space for innumerable columns regarding the false myths of Champagne, that their columns were too crowded for the FIRST

a ball and placing it in the center of a small circular dahlia bed in the afternoon. The next morning we picked up this paper ball, went out on the paved street and upon unfolding it earwigs fell on the pavement by the scores and we were kept busy for some minutes tramping them. Since that time we have placed these balls of crumpled newspapers up in the vines growing about the home, at the foot or in the forks of fruit and ornamental trees on the grassy lawn and everywhere about the place and instead of opening these paper traps mornings on the concrete sidewalk or street and tramping these under foot, we go to our small poultry yard at the rear of our home and it is fun to watch the scramble of the chickens for the earwig feast as they drop from the paper to the ground. Chickens soon learn these paper balls are earwig traps and if placed on a bare spot of ground they will scratch the paper to fragments in search of earwigs in a few minutes. We have destroyed thousands of earwigs in this way since the warm weather came, which makes these pests far more active. A cloth will serve nearly as well as old newspapers for traps, but crumpled paper placed about the premises seem to attract the earwigs better than old sacks or rags. If troubled with earwigs give this crumpled paper trap a trial.

W. C. CONNER.

presentation of the facts, which should be fresh news to many of the readers.

"I have been making rather extensive researches in regard to the general subject of Champagne, and it seems to me that the popular myth belittles the 'Pioneer' (to use that word as representing the emigrants who came by ox wagon) since the efficient and most praiseworthy local community organization which is commonly called the 'Provisional Government' was organized and established by the ox wagon pioneers in 1845, and to them should be given the credit.

"The fact that they utilized and made efficient the unwieldy and ineffective earlier organization of laws and code of laws of July 5th, 1843, was similar to the formation of the U. S. Constitution from the earlier and inefficient form. The adaptation of an IMPRACTICABLE code of laws and the making of an EFFICIENT organization to replace a defective one deserved greater credit than is usually accorded."

"The organization and code adopted July 5th, 1843, was similarly a great step in advance over the EARLIER form adopted February 15th, 1841, but neither were suitable for a real government, while the ox wagon pioneers created a truly efficient and practicable government, and it seems to belittle them to slight their useful accomplishment."

"In regard to the 50-52 myth, it seems to have been so strongly believed during a period when actual participants were still living that I am inclined to think that such were the actual numbers IN LINE since it was asserted by one of the participants that ALL would not form in line. That would seem natural, since the spirit of independence of such a heterogeneous group of sailors, farmers, missionaries, mechanics and fur traders would naturally prevent any united action."

"It might have been that Gray counted the ones in line, and LeBreton inquired of the others who would not line up, thus accounting for the difference between a majority of two and a LARGE OR GREAT majority. I am inclined to think that there (Continued on page 5)

Editorial Comment

From Other Papers

OMINOUS

This newspaper wishes that it could view with the complacency and equanimity of some of its contemporaries, Governor Meier's assault on the constitution of Oregon in suspending the payment of automobile licenses for 15 days. It cannot justify the act on the ground of expediency, as does the Oregonian and as other newspapers and individuals are doing. This newspaper does not oppose the granting of the moratorium but it does criticize the method of granting it.

If there be need as Governor Meier and his apologists claim, to give the motorists of Oregon more time for paying their license fees, the governor knew the situation in time to convene the legislature and put upon it the burden of providing a remedy. The enactment of legislation governing the payment of automobile license fees is the duty and responsibility of the legislature. Whenever the governor takes to himself this responsibility he is usurping the power of the legislature and he is doing to the constitution of Oregon a wrong which the plea of expediency will not justify.

The Murder of the Night Club Lady

By ANTHONY ABBOTT

SYNOPSIS

Following the receipt of a death threat, Lola Carver, known as "The Night Club Lady", is mysteriously slain in her penthouse apartment at 8 a. m. New Year's. Dr. Hugh Baldwin reports death due to heart failure. The only clue to the murderer is a medical laboratory specimen box found outside Lola's window. Police Commissioner Thatcher Colt attaches importance to the young man whose photograph is found in Lola's room, and whose identity Lola had refused to reveal beyond his first name, "Basil". At the mention of "Basil", Mrs. Carver, Lola's mother, becomes hysterical. It is known that Lola quarreled with Guy Everett and Vincent Rowland, a lawyer, over investments. Eunice, the maid, confesses she was employed by Everett to report the goings on in the apartment. The mystery deepens with the finding of the body of Christine Quires, Lola's guest. Christine had been killed before Lola and her body hidden until an opportune moment arrived for the murderer to place it, soaking wet, in Lola's room. The findings are similar to those in Lola's case except that Christine's neck was bruised after death. Everett, Christine's last escort, claims he left her at the apartment elevator at midnight New Year's Eve, and then went for a ride on the Motor Parkway, alone, arriving home after 3 a. m. Mrs. Carver informs Colt that Christine lived with a brother, Edgar, in Rochester, and was to receive her inheritance shortly. Lola's room is vacuum cleaned and the dust particles sent to Professor Luckner for analysis. Colt sends to the medical examiner a hypodermic syringe taken from Baldwin's bag and a strap for analysis, also a strand of Christine's hair found near Lola's window. The Commissioner orders Basil's picture telephoned to M. Dupont, head of the Paris Police.

CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE

WATCHING half an hour after reaching Headquarters I had performed my several and diversified errands. The hypodermic syringe was in the hands of a department chemist, yanked from between warm sheets and called to the cold glare of the Center Street laboratory. To him was also entrusted the buckled strap which Colt had found and to which he attributed such enigmatic importance. Finally, I had turned the photograph over to Gavin, the telegraph manager. When the grizzled old operator heard what was wanted, he looked at me with a skeptical squint.

"Telephoto—no Paris?" he repeated in a nasal tone, full of complaint. "And with the government tying up the wires trying to argue with the French about money?"

He leaned forward and grabbing my shoulder, fixed me with an eye as glittering as the Ancient Mariner's.

"So the Commissioner wants me to send that photo to Paris, eh? Does he know what that means? Of course he does not! You tell him for me that to wire this picture to Paris it has to be specially prepared, chameleon style. Never thought of that, eh? Then it has to be exposed, a minute area at a time, to a transmitting device by means of which the line current is varied proportionately—never thought of that either, did you? The fastest time we've ever made is two hours. And they've got to get ready over in Paris—if we can do the job at all—"

"The Commissioner said it had to be done," I cut in impatiently. "Telephoto" eyed me dourly. But I knew he would do it. Such men—there are lots among the police veterans—are never able to do their best work unless they have a free tongue to grouch. Any of them would give his life for the department.

higher education. Do you believe sufficient signatures will be secured to put the matter on the ballot?"

Norah Bilyen, housekeeper: "I really haven't followed that matter, and can't say I am a great deal interested in it. I presume if

they want those signatures bad enough they'll get out enough petition circulators to get them."

Arthur Plant, florist: "Oh, yes, I think they will."

George L. Pro, plasterer: "I don't know. I never heard of it."

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In Eunice's room Flynn had found a box of writing paper and a small bottle of ink identical with the materials of the death note.

On my desk at Headquarters I found several messages from my home. I looked at my watch. It was deep in the morning now; I wondered if Betty had fallen asleep. Poor kid! Police work is exciting, but not for wives. I decided it was better not to risk waking her. My tasks at Headquarters were done and I returned uptown in a department car. In quick time I arrived at the gray-stone house with the green trim on West Seventieth Street that used to be called "Little Headquarters" because Thatcher Colt transacted so much official business in his own home. Arthur, Colt's dusky Jamaican butler, greeted me with an ivory smile and led me to the vast library occupying the third floor of the house. There, in easy-chairs before the fire, I found the chief and the District Attorney. Beside them were whiskeys and sodas and a third chair was drawn up for me, with a tall drink, waiting and undefiled. A bright fire of logs crackled and sparkled in the open grate. On Thatcher Colt's shoulder crouched a Siamese cat with blue eyes and blue-pointed ears—Judas was his name because once he had scratched his master. Now they were great friends.

When I entered the room, Colt was talking on the portable telephone beside his chair to the Rochester police chief. Their conversation was brief.

"Tony," the chief divulged as he hung up the receiver, "the brother of Christine Quires received a telegram from New York early yesterday afternoon. The Western Union won't disclose its contents without a court order. However, I expect to find out what was in the message, just the same. But we do know Edward Quires and his wife left at once for New York—around ten o'clock last night. Find out what train is due to arrive in New York from Rochester. Have one of our men board the train at Harmon and page Mr. Edward Quires. Bring him and his wife to Headquarters."

As I relayed these messages to Flynn, still over at the pent-house and functioning from there, Colt and Dougherty conversed in low tones, their voices almost obliterated by the cry of the wind in the dark street below. But presently Flynn told me something which seemed so startling to me that I held the Inspector on the wire while

"Thank Flynn," called Colt. "Tell him I'll question Everett again, later today. Keep me posted!" (To Be Continued Tomorrow) Copyright 1931, by Cavell-Friede, Inc. Distributed by Kline Features Syndicate, Inc.

they want those signatures bad enough they'll get out enough petition circulators to get them."

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