

# The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"  
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THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING CO.

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## Constructive Legislation

MOST of the publicity dealing with the legislative session had to do with revenue measures, appropriation bills, and motor license fees, with beer and basic science coming in for their share of attention. Aside from these major measures the legislature enacted a great deal of subsidiary legislation, much of which is of a constructive character. Little known as yet is the extent of the fiscal reform which has been accomplished, the purpose of which is to get the government units of the state on a firmer financial basis to prevent in the future the bond defaults such as have occurred in recent months; and to limit the bond flotations of municipal corporations.

Most of these bills were worked out in the office of State Treasurer Holman and are the product of long experience in handling the financial problems of communities. The chief deputy Fred H. Paulus has done a great deal of work in this connection and his experience proved of great value to Mr. Holman and to the legislators in their revision of laws. In the list are the following:

- Senate Bill 221: Limits the bond issues of any city or town to 5% of the assessed valuation. Former limit was 10%.
- Senate Bill 254: Makes Bancroft (local improvement) bonds serial in form with definite maturity dates; and holds total to not over 5% of the assessed valuation of the municipality.
- House Bill 557: Enables school districts and municipalities to fund outstanding warrants, on vote of people, not in excess of 2% of assessed valuation. This may be helpful to Salem school district, enabling it to retire outstanding warrant indebtedness by bonds drawing a lower rate of interest.
- Senate Bill 62 and House Bill 87: These bills govern refunding of maturing indebtedness of cities and counties, making new issues serial in form.
- Senate Joint Resolution 22: Submits a constitutional amendment at the election July 21 which would require a two-thirds vote of qualified electors voting to authorize an issue of bonds.
- Senate Bill 242: Modifies law governing investment of sinking funds.
- In connection with immediate financial problems of taxing districts certain laws were passed, including:
  - Senate Bill 33: Provides for appointment of "municipal administrators" to supervise finances of cities in default on bond issues.
  - Senate Bill 240: Making state treasurer intermediary in compromises between cities in default and holders of their bonds.
  - Senate Bill 88: Permits sale of tax anticipation warrants in order to meet bond maturities for which taxes have been levied but not collected.
  - Senate Bill 320: Requires security for deposits of all public funds in banking institutions.
- One bill which was vetoed was Senate bill 341 which appropriated \$1250 for expenses of representative of the state treasurer's office to visit communities and assist them in revising their financing. This was unfortunate; because many cities and towns are in need of this expert advice. The work has been done gratuitously to them, but it has been of great value to the state and to the credit of its taxing districts. The one thing which Oregon now needs is some strong bureau of audit to check books of all municipal corporations and keep them from getting into such messes as many of them have worked themselves into.
- Government units from the federal government down are groaning under burdens of debt assumed jauntily in happier times. The lesson of the last few years is the danger of overbonding. Many cities are unable to reduce tax rates now because the debt service is fixed and heavy. The measures passed by the past legislature represent the profit of the state from the trying experience of the past.
- Good times will come again and the booster boys will be eager to pave the back alleys of the suburbs. When they do some of these new laws will put a brake on their zeal.

## A Study in Decimals

THE Oregon City Enterprise commenting on the difficulty in determining the decimal point for intoxication, remarks that "altitude" is one of the variables: "A little alcohol goes a long way in high altitudes." That suggests the idea that the proper solution of the percentage question is to devise a gauge which will combine barometric readings with physiological variations including blood pressure and bacteria count, put one end in the stein of beer and the other in the patient's mouth; and then let the tube suck air just as the indicator reaches the intoxication point.

Soon men would go about comparing their percentage figures just as they now compare golf scores.

Senator Fred Steiwer has a difficult role in walking the tight wire in Washington. Between trying to live up to his campaign promise made so recently and still keeping up with the shifts in public sentiment he is under much embarrassment. His vote against the economy measure was merely delivery under his pledge to service men to keep the sluice-way of the treasury open. For the last four years Steiwer has been training with the hounds and running with the hares, as his votes indicate.

The American Red Cross is appealing for \$500,000 for relief work in the Southern California earthquake zone. We who have contributed generously to relief work in foreign lands, and who have ourselves been spared such calamity, should respond to this appeal. Money may be left at any of the local banks for the Red Cross fund.

The Portland Journal denies that Roosevelt is a dictator; says he is a "leader." Granted; but if a republican president had asked for the power what would the Journal have called him?

The way the administration is starting off it will only be a few weeks until Will Woodin will be the "greatest secretary of the treasury since Alex Hamilton."

Even the Oregonian has added a column of Washington "key-hole" stuff. Most every out-of-work reporter in Washington must be manufacturing a gossip column to be sold out in the sticks.

Nobody wants any more bank holidays; but if we ever have to have them, we hope they're spotted in the fishing season.

The fellows who are spending \$2.50 for a motor license are piling up about \$35.00 for repairs, tires, et cetera.

The Eugene Register-Guard wonders if the back-beer signs will return. We do not know; but the back-beer signs are numerous.

## We're Around That Corner!



## Yesterdays

... Of Old Salem

Town Talks from The Statesman of Earlier Days

March 19, 1908  
The United States senate yesterday confirmed the nomination of John McCourt to be federal district attorney for Oregon.

People who have been wading in the mud on Commercial street since the beginning of Salem, are rejoicing over the city council's action last night. It was voted to proceed at once with paving the street with bitulithis between Center street and the north bank of South Mill creek.

DUBLIN — Tommy Burns, American heavyweight champion, made short work of Jim Roche, Irish champion, in the world's championship boxing match here last night. Burns knocked Roche out in the first minute.

March 10, 1923  
SEATTLE — Seeking a plan by which they might obtain "parcels of land and two buckets of gold" they asserted are due them under treaties made with Washington territory, 300 Indians met with an attorney here yesterday.

WASHINGTON — Senator Fess, Rep. Ohio, has informed Governor Smith of New York that he cannot comply with the petition of the New York legislature for support of the proposal to legalize light wines and beer.

University high school of Eugene last night won the state basketball championship by defeating Astoria high 23 to 25. Astoria led 15 to 13 at half time.

## BITS for BREAKFAST

By R. J. HENDRICKS

The funeral services for Ella McMunn's mother;

Ella McMunn probably reported more funerals and written a greater number of columns of news on the passing of people in the vicinity of Salem than any living person. This was in her long service as a worker on The Statesman, during which time that branch of the daily round of duties came as one of her assignments, a customary practice in conducting newspapers.

Some years ago, when she contributed a sketch entitled, "Thoughts for Mother's Day, by Ella McMunn," appropriate in time to the thought in the general mind on the date of publication, she could not have had a premonition that the skit might form a part of the text for the funeral sermon of her own beloved and devoted mother. That article follows:

"We had company for dinner yesterday and Mama got out the white tablecloth (there being just one, it is known as 'the tablecloth'), and we had the table set in the dining room, although we generally eat in the kitchen, and the 'attractive centerpiece' was a large bowl of most delicious rhubarb that made you think of plum blossoms and Paradise. "Our guest dined with us at Mama's invitation, very informally. In fact, the first that I knew about it was when I came back from the mail box and saw his neat bundle of blankets on the table in the front yard. (It isn't really a 'settee' but a row out of the church at Hayesville.) I lifted the blankets off the seat the moment I saw them, and cast them

on the ground. Well, you know what a person's first impression would be. "Then I went into the house, where the young man was seated in my Father's leather chair reading the Country Gentleman, but before I could grasp the details of the general 'ensemble,' I saw Mama writhing and twisting in anxiety to have a private word with me in the kitchen. "He looks like Eddie," she said. And then I saw the tender, wistful smile on her face, the look that comes only to mothers who have watched the grave close over their own strong boys; and so I walked around the house and gathered up the bundle of blankets and put it back on the settee. Then I spent an hour hunting some socks for his wet feet, and found also a package of 'Camels' Eddie had left when he went on that last, long journey. "Our guest started away, late in the afternoon—Mama walked with him to the gate and watched him sadly out of sight, while in his worn pocket he carried one of her dollars, although she had just two before he came. "She is somebody's dear boy," she said. Yes, one of the wandering boys whose mothers sit at the window and listen for their step at the door. A boy who will come back when his mother's tired hands are folded forever on her breast and a wreath of white lilies is on the fresh earth above them.

## Daily Health Talks

By ROYAL S. COPELAND, M. D.

By ROYAL S. COPELAND, M. D., United States senator from New York Former Commissioner of Health, New York City

"TRACHOMA" OR "granulated eyelids" is not a common disease. I am writing about it because several of my readers have written for information about it.

Trachoma is a chronic inflammation of the eyelids. It is a highly contagious disease. Immigrants are carefully examined for trachoma, and are not permitted to enter this country if they have it. Recently I dined with a health authority who had just returned from China. He told me that trachoma has been very prevalent in China and is of great concern to the officials. The disease is common in Japan, Egypt and Russia. In America, it is frequently encountered among the American Indians and certain natives of the southern and southwestern states.

Trachoma is only found in homes where hygiene, sanitation, fresh air, sunlight, proper food and personal cleanliness are neglected. In former times it was common in orphan asylums, poorhouses and other custodial institutions. I am glad to say that local, state and federal health inspection has reduced the prevalence of this highly contagious disease. The often trachoma is confused with simple eye inflammation. Home remedies are tried without success and in the meantime the disease is quickly passed from one individual to another. In addition to this danger, the sufferer from neglected trachoma may receive permanent injury to his eyes. Many cases of partial or com-

plete blindness are traced to its delayed treatment. Symptoms of trachoma The sufferer from trachoma complains at first of mild itching and burning of the eyes. As the disease progresses, the eye water and the eyelids become red. Exposure to sunshine, bright lights or wind, causes intense pain in the eyes. At this point medical attention is imperative if the eye is to be saved. It is overlooked, a cloudiness of the front of the eyeball is observed. The afflicted person complains of poor eyesight. In due time scabs form in the inner lining of the lid. Then the lid is drawn inward and the eyelashes continually scratch the eyeball. To prevent the spread of the disease, sufferers from trachoma must be kept from other persons. Though the germ responsible for it has never been discovered, it is known that the disease is quickly spread from one person to another. It is probable that the discharge from the infected eyes contains the germs which are transmitted by contaminated fingers, handkerchiefs, towels and soiled linens. It is a grave mistake to neglect trachoma or any other affliction of the eyes. Bear in mind that many cases of blindness can be traced to neglect. If you have any (except) in the eye consult your physician. Immediate care is necessary if vision is to be saved.

Answers to Health Queries. R. A. R. Q.—What would you advise for nervous indigestion? In these days of special diet to be followed everything I eat causes gas. Have been told that I have hyperacidity. A.—Nervousness always affects the digestion. Try to locate the underlying cause first of all. For full particulars send a self-addressed stamped envelope and request your question. (Copyright, 1932, E. F. E., Inc.)

## "The Challenge of Love" By Warwick Deeping

CHAPTER FIFTY-ONE

Navestock was black under to the face and neck of pestilence. The slumped, glowing fever-patterns spread itself out in wavering and sinister lines. Everywhere Wolfe had been buffed by the incredible apathy of those whom he had tried to warn and help. They would not close up polluted wells, or take emergency measures to limit the disease. The tradesmen on the Board of Guardians sniggered over his proposal that they should arrange for a temporary supply of water to be brought into the town. Then came the deluge. On August 4th there were nine new cases; on August 5th, thirteen; on August 6th, seven; on August 7th, thirty-three. Some of the early cases were running towards their critical periods. Deaths began to mount up. August 10th gave three, August 11th, eight. Fresh centres of infection cropped up like fungi in every hole and corner. On August 12th there were thirteen deaths. The disease had been wallowing in the river alleys, but about the middle of the month it came out of the slough and climbed the higher ground. Sporadic cases cropped up even at High Elms and Mulberry Green. The middle-class houses began to be attacked. The moral intelligent selfishness of the town was touched. Then the panic came.



Flemming caught Wolfe by the arm. "Man, you're no heart."

Wolfe, hurrying out of the little white house at Eve's Corner at seven o'clock in the morning, nearly ran into a big man who was coming up the path. It was Robert Flemming, heavy-eyed and anxious, a man who had been sleeping badly. "I have just caught you." "I'm sorry, sir, but—"

The simple true story of the kindness in the humble McMunn home to the wayfarer guest, "somebody's dear boy," coupled with the near final interpretation of the core of Christianity by the lowly Nazarene, in the clear and eloquent words of Rev. Parker as he portrayed the analogy, made a picture that all who heard him will carry with them up to the brink of the grave.

So apparent was the impromptu character of it all that the effect was the more moving. So out of the ordinary was it as to stamp the recollection of it indelibly on the tablets of memory.

As most readers who follow such news have noted, Mrs. Susan McMunn passed away at the home of her daughter near Quincy, seven miles north of Salem, on Wednesday evening last. Born in Franklin county, Mo. June 28, 1847, she was nearly 86. She was married to George Stewart McMunn in Denver, Colo., December 9, 1869, and they came to Oregon in 1892, where he died. (Turn to Page 9)

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Spring in the air, Statesman reporters yesterday asked: "What is your favorite flower? Why?"

Mrs. H. E. Spencer, carpet weaver: "I think the rose, because it is the queen of flowers."

T. W. Creech, druggist: "I think a red rose."

Walter Thompson, police patrolman: "Poison Ivy, provided Sapper could be compelled to wear it for a bouquet."

Robert Burdette, high school student: "Violets—because they're so shrinking."