

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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The Way It Works

WE have been noticing in the papers the launching of the industrial reform legislation which Pres. Roosevelt sponsored. It is in brief an attempt at "planned economy"—with the industries doing most of the planning and the government theoretically acting as arbiter. There is considerable to be said in favor of the scheme. Competition has been excessive and price-cutting has made most every business lose money. On the other hand the tendency of trade groups is generally to gouge the public. Prices have to be raised to a point where even the inefficient plant will show a profit, or the plant kicks out and starts a price war. Also competition has long been the prod which forced improvements and economies and did away with dead timber in managerial staffs. So there is much to be said on both sides of the question; and we have preferred to watch developments rather than rush in with decisive opinions on the subject.

Now we have had an opportunity to see how the scheme works, for the paper dealers have been among the first to get under cover. Take book paper, which is the first baby to be let out of the incubator. According to the story which is being relayed to printers through the wholesale houses, the country has been zoned off. "All Gaul is divided into three parts", you remember. Anyway the U. S. A. is parceled out among the book paper mills, and price and trade agreements have been made. Prevailing prices have been 7 1/2c per lb. in ream lots; 6 1/2c a lb. in bundle lots of three reams; 6c a lb. in ton lots. To get quantity prices it was permissible to sort up different sizes and weights of paper.

Under the new dispensation the ream price is to be 9 1/2c per lb. for ream lots; no bundle price; but 7 1/2c per lb. for cases of 600 lbs. (formerly a case was 500 lbs.). The next step down in price is for four cases, and few printshops order that quantity at a time. The real ketch in the deal is this: the printer can't sort up an order to get a quantity price. A case must be of one grade and one size and weight. This means that whereas printers have been ordering in bundle lots and getting a 6 1/2c price, now they will be ordering in ream lots at 9 1/2c per lb.

The wholesalers tell us, "the government is doing this". So that is the way the new deal hits the printer in the face.

The first thought is to pass the increase along to the consumer; and goodness knows, the printers are so near broke they can't carry the increase. But here is the joker in that. While the manufacturers and wholesalers of paper, being few in number and well organized, can zone off the territory and "regulate" prices and trade practices, the printers being numerous and adhering to "rugged individualism" and operating almost wholly within a state, can't get together and agree on prices. That means the cutthroat competition will continue, with the printer trying to skimp on quality of work in order to meet the higher price for stock.

We haven't related this long story just to vent our own troubles as printers; but to acquaint the public with what is going on in the world. We are not ready even to condemn the paper dealers and wholesalers for ganging up on the printers and consumers of paper. They have their troubles and have doubtless been losing money. But just what are we coming to under "planned economy" with the big industries enjoying the planning and the little fellows and consumers the panning?

We can't tell whether to laugh or to weep over this "new deal" with the government a "partner" of big business as Pres. Roosevelt says.

More About the Tournament

THE Register-Guard of Eugene is quick to repudiate the suggestion for moving the basketball tournament from Willamette to the state schools. It recognizes that the tournament originated at Willamette and has been developed through support of the Salem people. It says that the state institutions entertain many high school tournaments during the year; and goes on record as follows:

"But the big state schools simply cannot be in the position of making any kind of raid on Willamette or any other college. If Willamette wants to go on conducting this tournament, and if the high schools have no serious objections to meeting in Salem (and it is difficult to see how they could have any such objections) then the tournament should remain at Willamette where it was originated and built up."

The Klamath Falls Herald pays attention to the matter because Paul Jackson, president of the high school athletic association lives in Eugene; and the Herald is likewise opposed to moving the contest to Eugene and Corvallis.

"If the University of Oregon and Oregon State college had had the initiative in the first place to promote this interesting high school event, they would immediately have first claims. But the event was developed in Salem and there seems little justice in suddenly removing it without Salem's permission."

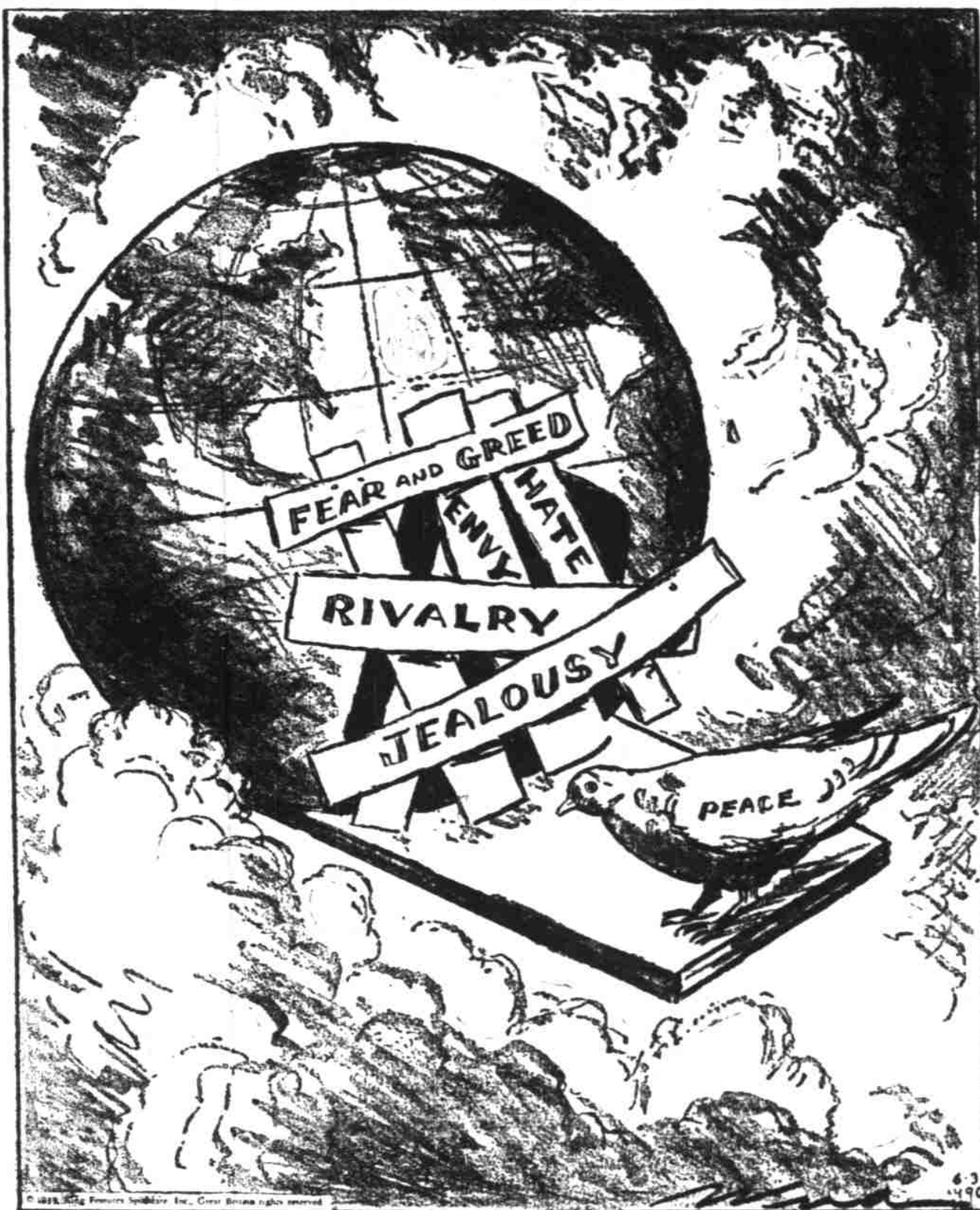
"The tournament should be at Portland where there is sufficient population to make it financially successful, but Portland has no adequate gymnasium. Little can be gained by presenting it to Eugene and Corvallis, so we subscribe to Salem's contention it should remain where it started—Willamette university."

So far as the financial end is concerned the meet has been profitable here. The high school association pays all its bills out of proceeds of the tournament, so we are informed, and has several thousand dollars in its treasury. Willamette, in order to take care of the tournament has gone to considerable expense and is still \$900 in the hole after applying its share of the proceeds to meet the expense. And the expenses of the tournament, which are very heavy, have always been met because Salem has given the tournament splendid patronage.

It must be pretty tough being the son of a president. The chap can hardly live his own life. Here's young Elliott Roosevelt who is having trouble with his wife and is going to Reno for the cure. So the story gets the fan of wide publicity which would never have occurred had Elliott been just himself, instead of a president's son. And his mother's wild ride across the continent didn't help keep the news down either.

The Rock Island railroad is the latest to hit the sawdust trail under the new law which helps make bankruptcy respectable or at least less costly for railroads. The road is not in any worse shape than a good many others but has most of its bonds falling due in less than a year which makes it impossible to borrow money to get by on now. In general things are looking up for the railroads simply because there are more tanned box cars rolling.

No Nesting Place?



Yesterdays

... Of Old Salem

Town Talks from The Statesman of Earlier Days

June 10, 1808
Democratic state convention at Portland endorses candidacy of William J. Bryan for president, elects D. J. Fry of Marion and L. M. Travis of Lane counties as delegates from first congressional district.

Salem business men to attempt raising \$2000 to stage July 4 celebration, including Cherry fair.

The Portland Telegram suggests that new amendment to state constitution permitting locating a state institutions elsewhere than in Salem may give Portland opportunity to obtain state fair. Frank Welch, secretary of state board of agriculture, brands story as improbable.

June 10, 1923
Construction of county road, in cooperation with forest service, between Niagara and Detroit up in air; cost estimate increased from \$125,000 to \$252,750; road urged as means of reaching Breitenbush hot springs.

Customs inspectors ordered to forbid foreign ships carrying intoxicating liquors to enter three-mile limit unless liquor for medicinal purposes; officials authorized to seize illegal liquors on ships in American ports.

W. H. Ballie, rural school supervisor, reelected by Marion county educational board.

FLOWER SHOW MONDAY

INDEPENDENCE, June 9. — The Independence flower show which was to be held Monday at the city park, will be held at the high school gymnasium next Monday. Exhibitions will be judged and on display all-day. There will be a program at night.

SERENADE NEWLYWEDS

HOPEWELL, June 9. — Wednesday night, June 7, a group of young folks gathered to charivari Miss Florence Ritacca and her husband at the Ritacca home. The evening was spent in playing games and visiting.

TELLING OF RUNNING HONEYMOON



Located near New York after 18 months of will-o'-the-wisp hiding, Russell T. Sherwood, the mystery man of the Seabury investigation, is pictured with his bride as he told reporters of their fugitive honeymoon. Sherwood denied that any money he handled for ex-Mayor Walker was graft. Loyalty to Jim inspired his flight, he said.

BITS for BREAKFAST

By R. J. HENDRICKS

McLoughlin picture title again:

Carey F. Martin, of Salem, several days ago, wrote this letter, addressed to the Bits man:

"I have been interested in your criticism of the wording descriptive of the painting of Dr. John McLoughlin in the senate chamber of our state house. The question of a proper description or legend to be placed under this painting was seriously discussed by the writer and others nearly 40 years ago, and the language used in the brief description was chosen with care.

"Nearly 40 years ago I was employed as private secretary of Honorable Harrison R. Kincaid, then secretary of state in charge of the state house and custodian of the various properties of the state of Oregon, including the paintings of governors in the senate chamber and hall of representatives in our state house. At that time the paintings of the different governors up to that date were without any description whatever attached to them, not even the name of the person whom the painting was supposed to portray. Each day when I would be showing some person about the state house it would become necessary for me to explain to visitors the name of each person represented by these paintings and the approximate date when each served as governor of Oregon, state or Oregon territory, and each time it was necessary to explain that Dr. McLoughlin as the agent of Hudson Bay company was really the first person to live in Oregon and was by courtesy called governor. To avoid this constant repetition of explanations to the public, I secured permission from the secretary of state and enlisted his cooperation in preparing the legends which now are attached to all the paintings of the former governors of the state of Oregon, including the legend under the painting of Dr. McLoughlin.

"Dr. McLoughlin came to Oregon at least as early as 1823 and by courtesy was called governor until the election of the first executive committee. You will recall that in the year, 1843, by vote of the people of Willamette valley," David Hill, Alanson Beers and Joseph Gale were elected as the first executive committee to exercise executive powers in Oregon, and for all practical purposes it can be truthfully said that Dr. McLoughlin was by courtesy called governor up to that time. The second executive committee was elected in 1844 and served until Governor Abernathy became governor of the provisional government in 1847. As to your criticism of our statement that he was an "honored pioneer and earliest settler in the territory of Oregon," I beg to take exception. He founded the town of Vancouver, in Washington, and the town of Oregon City in Oregon, and was the first white man to attempt to convert the wilderness into a habitation for the white man. He first brought wheat, oats, barley, corn, potatoes and tame grass seeds to Oregon. He was the first to raise cattle and domestic animals and was in truth of earliest "settler."

"The portrait concerning which the legend is in question was presented to the state of Oregon by the Oregon Pioneer association on May 21, 1893. The portrait was painted by John Minto, grandfather of Salem's now young lawyer, John Minto III, made the presentation address, and Governor Sylvester Pennoyer accepted the portrait for the state.

"During the term of office of Honorable Harrison R. Kincaid as secretary of state, 1894-1898, the writer of these lines by direction of Mr. Kincaid and assisted by Miss Ella Hodson compiled a 250 page appendix for the biennial report of the secretary of state, in which will be found a complete list of every person connected with the state government of Oregon in any important official capacity from the earliest period down to the date of publication. The names of the officers arranged in tabular form with the dates of their service and office held by each, together with biographies of the governors and chief officers of the state of Oregon from beginning of government down to that time. This official publication consisted of 250 pages and is designated as 'Political and Official History and Register of Oregon,' and is the forerunner for first attempted Blue Book published in the state of Oregon. At page 163 of this appendix to the secretary's biennial report, for the years, 1897-1898, will be found a brief biography of Dr. John McLoughlin, and under his name we have designated him as: 'Honored Pioneer and Earliest Settler in the Territory of Oregon.'

"The designation under the portrait is intended to convey to the public the fact as to the correct dates between which Dr. McLoughlin exercised, by courtesy, the authority of governor and is not intended to convey to the public the idea that he did not live in or remain in Oregon after 1843, or that he may not also have been here prior to 1823.

"This appendix to the secretary of state's report was first published in 1897, but was greatly enlarged, corrected and re-published January 1, 1899.

"Many of the biographies in this volume were written either personally by the then surviving ex-governors or from memoranda given by them personally or from members of their families. I personally recall that Governor Whiteaker, the first state governor of Oregon, wrote out in long hand with indelible pencil his biography, and I still have the original document. The same is true of the biography of Judge George H. Williams, United States senator from Oregon, 1865-1871.

"The designations of legends under the portraits in the state house dictated by Mrs. Dart.

"STOLEN LOVE" By HAZEL LIVINGSTON

WHAT HAS HAPPENED SO FAR.

Lovely Joan Hastings lives a secluded life with her two stern, old aunts, Evvie and Babe Van Fleet, in Sausalito, California. She falls in love with Bill Martin, young mechanic. Learning this, Aunt Evvie sends Joan away to Pennsylvania to school. Enroute, Joan slips off the train and goes to Bill's home only to find that he left town without leaving an address. She did not know Bill had gone to see her and Evvie upbraided him, saying if he loved Joan he would give her up and not try to find her as he had nothing to offer her. Joan goes to San Francisco unknown to her aunts. She boards with good-natured Mrs. Maisie Kimmer and works in a department store. Bill, in the meantime, is befriended by Rollo's father, believing Bill may have a good influence on his son, gives him a position where he learns surveying. He does not try to get in touch with Joan as he wants to be a success before he goes to her. Bill's mother returns Joan's letters to her as she does not know her son's address, but she assures Joan he is all right as he writes her regularly. Joan believes Bill no longer cares and is broken-hearted. Maisie tries in vain to make her forget. Maisie's daughter, Francine, and her friend, Rollo's father, believing Bill may have a good influence on his son, gives him a position where he learns surveying. He does not try to get in touch with Joan as he wants to be a success before he goes to her. Bill's mother returns Joan's letters to her as she does not know her son's address, but she assures Joan he is all right as he writes her regularly. Joan believes Bill no longer cares and is broken-hearted. Maisie tries in vain to make her forget. Maisie's daughter, Francine, and her friend, Rollo's father, believing Bill may have a good influence on his son, gives him a position where he learns surveying. 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