

The Oregon Statesman

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

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CHARLES A. SPRAGUE, Editor-Manager
SHELDON F. SACKETT, Managing-Editor

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Pros and Cons on Relief in Oregon

CONSIDERING the limitations of time and funds granted Governor Martin's relief investigating committee, that group has done a good job. Its 20-page report, released Monday, reveals conscientious, painstaking work. While the demand for an investigation is a carryover from the political campaign of last fall and legislative criticism in March, the report is without partisan bias and evidences a desire by the investigators to weigh objectively the manner in which federal and state funds for relief have been administered.

Charges that as much as \$1,500,000 had been "grafted" by relief administration in the state are quashed. Aside from petty cases where a few days' SERA work may have been applied on private projects, the committee reveals not a scintilla of evidence of that Oregon's \$1,000,000-a-month relief enterprise has been weighted with corruption. Adequate records have been kept of every dollar spent. These findings are comforting in view of misappropriations which have been found in the handling of relief funds in Illinois, in North Dakota and in California.

Nor does the committee find merit in the contention that excessive salaries are paid relief administration personnel. Wage scales are shown to be "as low as could be reasonably expected"; salaries paid heads of departments "seem to the committee very reasonable."

Senator McCornack's committee also finds that "the family budget is not too high when administered to deserving and needy people." Many families have been maintained on a lower standard of living than is desirable.

The report is by no means a whitewash of the state's relief administration. Half of its pages contain definite criticisms and suggestions for improvement.

Multnomah county's relief administration is criticized for confusion existing in relief agencies. The Public Welfare bureau there, which preceded the State Relief bureau, has overlapped its work with the latter. So also has the Jewish relief unit and the veterans' relief unit. The investigating committee recommends that hereafter all relief be disbursed through the state agency in that county, that the disbursement of funds from the county to unemployable families be kept rigidly separated and that discrepancies in the amount of relief granted equally deserving families, be done away with.

Case workers who bear the brunt of investigating relief needs and in determining upon family budgets come in for criticism. Many were found to be inexperienced, lacking in poise and overburdened with work. Better supervision of the case work, better coordination of the worker's judgment on the amount of relief dispensed to a family and a lightening of the case load of the worker are commendations of the investigators.

The investigators point out what seems to be a major flaw in relief administration in the state: the penalizing of persons on relief who seek to supplement their relief budgets by work other than that obtained on SERA projects. Reads their report:

"Should a worker show the initiative to go out and secure casual private employment in an effort to supplement his family income, next month's work allowance is reduced by the amount of such outside work. . . Heads of families hesitate to jeopardize their earnings from relief work by securing self-help work of such nature. The present system tends to hold him on relief and to discourage personal initiative."

This vital fault in the state setup certainly merits correction. If relief rolls are producing a class of spoon-fed, lazy folk who shrink from a private job when it is offered, the system of state aid to unemployed persons is indefensible. The investigators propose a bonus in the form of a better minimum living budget to workers who show sufficient initiative to supplement their relief draw by private employment. Another grave charge levied at the relief administration is that persons undeserving of relief get on the rolls and are not removed. Inadequate preliminary investigation permits them their initial relief pay; poor followups by case workers keeps them on the rolls. "Your committee sees in elimination of ineligible from relief rolls," the investigators report, "the most promising possibility in connection with emergency relief administration."

Other weaknesses in the relief setup in the state include an unsatisfactory policy regarding payment of rents, indefinite dividing lines between the functions of the county and the state committee, delays in investigating and determining the needs of new applicants for relief and unjustified use of an expensive, intricate accounting machine in the Multnomah county office.

When one considers the mushroom growth of the relief system—if it can be termed that—in this and the other 47 states, the vast sums of money dished out, the insufficiency of trained personnel, the inevitable social and economic problems government does occasion, Oregon's administration of relief since 1933 must be adjudged fairly satisfactory. How long outlays of \$1,000,000 a month can go on, how tens of thousands of Oregon families accustomed to direct or work relief can be weaned from such support, how much permanent injury has been done to the self-reliance and ambition of Oregon citizens by relief, are questions the committee does not attempt to answer.

Labor Swats the Farmer

AS IS so often the case, the agriculturist is being made the goat in a labor dispute. He was maltreated last summer when the eastern Oregon rancher watched a wool market slide to half its spring level while the longshoremen's strike prevented shipments.

With most lumber mills and working plants of the northwest now gripped by strikes, the strawberry grower and the fruit raiser are caught without the necessary containers in which to market the fresh or frozen product.

The irony of the situation is the favorable market prospect for berries and cherries this year. Heavy carryovers of former years have been cleaned up. Packers and shippers are ready to buy heavily of the 1935 production.

The sympathy of the berry grower and horticulturist should not be with the strike leaders. They are suspected of deliberately calling the walkout when the producers of the northwest would be most disastrously affected. Instead of the farmer rallying to labor's cause, he is lining up to help break the strike. In Washington county farmers have volunteered to afford the sheriff and his deputies support when the Stimson mill reopens. Farmers there know that more than 200 men in that mill want to return to work; that only 18 of the men at a referendum last weekend voted to stay out on strike.

The growers of this valley would improve their position

The Great Game of Politics

By FRANK R. KENT
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TWO PLANS FOR 1936

Washington, May 20.—THE Brain Trust may be concerned primarily with principles, but members of Congress are concerned primarily with politics. With few exceptions the latter think almost exclusively in those terms.

BACK of the bonus fight, the Parley charges, the TVA indictment and the 3000 farmers who "spontaneously" came to Washington to express hearty approval of the money-distribution policy of AAA—back of all these is the shadow of the presidential campaign. Senators and representatives like the people generally, are divided into two classes—one composed of those who want Mr. Roosevelt re-elected in 1936 and the other of those who want him beaten.

On both sides the practical men assay the situation with a view of promoting their desire. It is interesting to note that while their strategies differ in detail, closely examined, they seem to indicate mutual acceptance of certain facts. This is not true of the oratorical or emotional element in either camp. It is true of the cold-eyed, closely calculating politicians who judge the situation on the hard-bald basis of votes. Take first the view of those of this type in the Roosevelt, or, as some prefer to call it, the "socialistic" democratic party. Strange as it may seem, despite the atmosphere of murky idealism with which the administration is soaked, there are plenty of this type on that side.

IN their opinion the Roosevelt strategy is clear. What he must do in the next 12 months, they think, is keep so far to the left that there will be no excuse for a radical third party. Once he has blocked that movement, he is safe. Party loyalty, the party label, and lack of any place to go will keep in line the great bulk of the anti-New Deal democrats. It is conceded that there are a vast number of those who have a profound distrust of and distaste for the New Deal and would leap at the chance to defeat Mr. Roosevelt. However, he has them locked in by the party label. Behind the third party, keep the anti-New Deal democrats in line by giving them no alternative; add to this the weight of the great federal machine which has been built in the last two years and victory is assured. Such, say the democrats, is the plan.

ON THE other side, the practical boys look at it this way: the only problem is to evolve a way by which the voters opposed to Mr. Roosevelt can be united. The most effective method would be for a group of conservative democratic leaders to form a committee, convene a convention composed of delegates from all the states, and nominate for president Senator Harry F. Byrd, Lewis Douglas, Senator Tydings, or some other of the same type of thought. The next step would be for the republicans in their convention to nominate the same ticket on the same platform. This could be done on the patriotic ground that it was the only way by which unity against the New Deal could be created, that it was essential to make the sacrifice to save the country.

SO far as the platform is concerned, there would be little difficulty about that. The one suggested by Ogden Mills last week is one upon which any anti-New Deal democrat could stand. It might have been written by Senator Carter Glass. The net result would be the election of the conservative candidates and the formation of a coalition government. That's the idea of the anti-Roosevelt strategists. They think there is a possibility of beating Mr. Roosevelt anyway, but that is the sure way of doing it.

IT IS hard to make out a plausible case for either of these plans. But neither is it hard to point out the weaknesses in the way. For example, on the Roosevelt side, even if the third party is forestalled and he keeps his radical following, there is the risk the game will be so apparent that conservative democrats, deeply disgusted and strongly convinced of the danger, will vote for the republican leaders anyhow. There is also the uncertainty as to how many radical votes Mr. Roosevelt may lose because of the conviction that he is a "spurious liberal," playing with the radicals for political purposes only.

THE big obstacle to the success of the anti-Roosevelt strategy is the stupidity of the republicans. Last November, when the New Deal seemed almost unanimously endorsed by republican leaders generally threw up their hands. Some now promoting "regional conferences" and talking about republican prospects themselves suggested dropping the republican label and going over to the anti-New Deal democrats. They were willing then to scrap the G. O. P. altogether. Since then there has been a change in sentiment. Mr. Roosevelt has lost in popular strength. The result is the republicans have regained hope and now find all sorts of reasons not to amalgamate. In brief, because they are no longer badly scared they have had a revival of party spirit and are likely to play squarely into the Roosevelt hands. The really significant thing emerges when you compare the two strategies. They are both based on the belief that the majority of the people are no longer pro-Roosevelt, but anti-New Deal. And that is an exceedingly pregnant fact. The Roosevelt leaders believe they have to win to keep the anti-New Dealers from getting together. The anti-Roosevelt leaders know there is sure victory if they can be united. Both mean the same thing.

By petitioning Portland police and the sheriff's office in Multnomah county asking those agencies to protect lumber workers who want to go back to their jobs. The majority of mill workers are not in sympathy with the strike, but they will not subject themselves to the attacks of beat-up gangs without protection. Train crews seeking to take out crate materials and barrels already manufactured must also be given a police safeguard.

If organized labor is the friend of the farmer, which it pretends to be, it will clean its own house, weed out the lumber strike agitators and get the box and barrel factories open. If it does not, the producer has convincing proof that his losses mean nothing when a union minority attempts to enforce its dictum on employers.

Bits for Breakfast

By R. J. HENDRICKS

Salem has mother lodge of Odd Fellows in all the old Oregon country: I. O. O. F. largest secret society in world: Salem is this week entertaining the grand lodge sessions of Oregon Odd Fellows.

This means representatives of 218 lodges of Odd Fellows and 204 local Relief societies. It means that these men and women who are visitors here represent 36,000 people, counting their brother and sister members in Oregon.

Behind them are about four and a quarter millions of Odd Fellows in the various progressive countries of the world, counting Rebekahs, and the great majority of those devoted people are in the United States.

This does not take into account the Odd Fellows who have only colored members, which does not affiliate with the order being mentioned in this article. The negro Odd Fellows have a large membership in the southern states of this country.

The history of the English pro-motors of American Odd Fellowship runs back to about 1745. The early English order appeared about 25 years after the modern revival of Freemasonry in 1717, at London.

The first English Odd Fellow lodges were probably an outgrowth of rivalry to the Masons, who had acquired prominence in the early half of the 18th century, particularly among the so-called upper classes, in the army, navy, diplomatic service, and among the nobility.

The story is that some disgruntled Masons were founders of the early English Odd Fellows' lodges.

The distinguishing characteristics of their methods and work was their care for their sick, distressed and dependent members and their families.

Among the earliest English lodges was Aristarchus No. 3, which in 1748 met in the Globe tavern, London.

The grand lodge of Odd Fellows for England was formed in 1803.

The Manchester Unity was responsible for the introduction of the order into the United States, in Baltimore, in 1819.

The first organized and oldest lodge of Odd Fellows west of the Rocky mountains and north of the Spanish (California) line was Chemeketa No. 1 of Salem. Hence the hosts to the hundreds of visiting three-linkers in Salem this week are members of the mother lodge of the district described above.

Even more: Chemeketa No. 1 was organized before there was a lodge of the order in the country where the Dakotas are now, and few, if any, west of the Missouri river above parallel 42.

Joe C. Formick, noble grand of Chemeketa No. 1, last year wrote a series of articles for the Pacific Odd Fellow, Portland, in which he reviewed the history of Salem's contribution to Oregon Odd Fellowship, and a large part of the information that follows is taken from that series, based mostly upon official records.

E. M. Barnum arrived in Salem about 1851. He was a past grand of Huron lodge No. 37, Norwalk, Ohio, and a member of the grand lodge of that state.

Salem had the 13th of January, 1851, at Oregon City, been voted the territorial capital, and the third session of the territorial legislature convened Dec. 1, 1851, in basement rooms of the Oregon institute that by change to name became Willamette university.

Barnum made use of the opportunity to contact as many Odd Fellows as possible during the session to about the middle of January, 1852.

He canvassed them for their signatures to a petition to the grand lodge of the United States, and also called for a meeting in December, 1851, for the purpose of organizing a lodge. Six brothers

were willing then to scrap the G. O. P. altogether. Since then there has been a change in sentiment. Mr. Roosevelt has lost in popular strength. The result is the republicans have regained hope and now find all sorts of reasons not to amalgamate. In brief, because they are no longer badly scared they have had a revival of party spirit and are likely to play squarely into the Roosevelt hands. The really significant thing emerges when you compare the two strategies. They are both based on the belief that the majority of the people are no longer pro-Roosevelt, but anti-New Deal. And that is an exceedingly pregnant fact. The Roosevelt leaders believe they have to win to keep the anti-New Dealers from getting together. The anti-Roosevelt leaders know there is sure victory if they can be united. Both mean the same thing.

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If organized labor is the friend of the farmer, which it pretends to be, it will clean its own house, weed out the lumber strike agitators and get the box and barrel factories open. If it does not, the producer has convincing proof that his losses mean nothing when a union minority attempts to enforce its dictum on employers.

ers answered the call for a meeting. They were: E. M. Barnum, E. N. Cooke, Samuel E. May, A. W. Ferguson, C. S. Woodworth and J. R. Hardin. The meeting determined to establish a lodge. It also composed and ordered a resolution asking the U. S. grand lodge for a charter, which was forwarded under date of Jan. 7, 1852.

Besides those named above, the petition bore the names of P. D. Jalmor, John O. Waterman, B. F. Harding, Joel Palmer, C. P. Cooke and George B. Knowles.

Barnum left a record that Chemeketa, the name chosen, "denotes in the Indian language 'the old home' or 'the old camp'." A member wondered how to pronounce it.

The matter was referred to Dr. W. H. Willson, who platted down town Salem. "Oh, easy enough, a cough, a sneeze, a hiccup, and say 't' the doctor answered. (But it was not so easy, even then. Disputes about the name of the pioneer days and newspaper battles raged on the point of the final letter, whether it should be a or e.)

The writer thinks Mr. Barnum was wrong about the meaning of the name Chemeketa. But that will have to go over.

(Continued tomorrow.)

ELIZABETH HOHL'S FUNERAL IS TODAY

CORVALLIS, May 20.—Elizabeth K. Hohl, wife of Martin Hohl, 78, and a resident of Corvallis since 1919, died at the family home, 329 North 12th street, Saturday, following a lingering illness. Mrs. Hohl was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Frank and she was born at Dormstadt, Germany, March 21, 1857. She emigrated to the United States in 1883. She was married to Martin Hohl, June 16, 1887, at Plattsmouth, Neb.

The family came to Oregon in 1890 and located at Salem. They resided in Marion county until they came to Corvallis in 1919. She was the last survivor of a family of 14 children.

Besides her husband she is survived by three daughters, Mrs. A. H. Hams, Mrs. J. W. Palmer and Mrs. Bruce Morgan, all of Corvallis; four grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held in the chapel of the Keeney funeral home, Corvallis, Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. Interment will follow in the family plot in the Masonic cemetery. Burial will be by committal services at 2:30 p.m.

Twenty Years Ago

May 21, 1915
Large crowds greeted the Sells-Floto circus and Buffalo Bill Wild West shows yesterday. Salem roses adorned the costumes of many of the performers.

Because of the war, health resorts in Germany are slashing rates 24 to 35 per cent. Wives and relatives of army and navy officers will make up the clientele.

President Wilson cabled to President Menocal of Cuba yesterday to congratulate him on the 13th anniversary of Cuban independence.

Ten Years Ago

May 21, 1925
Two West Virginia girls have arrived to help the city exterminate its rats. They claim there are 50,000 of the rodents in Salem.

The Willamette tennis team defeated the College of Puget Sound 3 to 2 yesterday.

Phi Gamma Mu, national honorary sociological fraternity, has received its charter at Willamette. It is the first to be chartered in Oregon. Prof. S. B. Laughlin is the president.

Many Guests Come to Aurora For Visits Youth Arrives by Air

AURORA, May 20.—Many home-coming guests coming here for the week-end. The entertainment has been arranged for their pleasure. Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Tyler of Bend are in the valley for a few days. Friday night guests were entertained at dinner at the home of Mrs. Tyler's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lane Gribble. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Scott, Jr., of Woodburn, and Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Gribble of Salem, will entertain for them before their return Tuesday to Bend.

The past week, Dr. and Mrs. H. H. H. and Mr. and Mrs. Halpeny and daughter Shirley of Portland, at their home. The Halpenys will leave for New Jersey soon.

At the C. E. Gilbreath home, Mr. and Mrs. Hern and daughter, Barbara, and Mr. and Mrs. Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. Lane Gribble, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Scott, Jr., of Woodburn, and Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Gribble of Salem, will entertain for them before their return Tuesday to Bend.

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"The Cold Finger Curse" By Edwin Dial

By Torgerson

CHAPTER XII

Montigny at eleven o'clock was in conference with Doctor Inman, the chemist and Captain Nobby, at the latter's laboratory at headquarters.

Doctor Inman rolled up his sleeves and bustled himself with test tubes and reagents as they talked. He had at hand various treasured exhibits from the bedroom of Violet Elderbank, including the small bar of Fallet toilet soap from the bathroom, the jar of cold cream from the vanity dresser, the strips of adhesive tape which had been used in gagging the murder victim, and also the piece of powdered burnt cork which Roger Duane had used, together with a sample of the soot from the chimney of the bedroom.

"Doctor Inman and I have discussed this subject," he yesterday, "but yesterday, when I discovered new evidence which required his expert opinion, Doctor Inman unfortunately was out of town. He has already performed certain research work as a preliminary to this test—little was needed, of course, because Doctor Inman is an expert in the chemistry of soaps."

"Then we had better go upstairs," said Nobby suddenly, "and tell this to Inspector McEniry."

"All right," said Captain Nobby impatiently. "And what is it that you propose to prove?"

"The matter was referred to Dr. W. H. Willson, who platted down town Salem. 'Oh, easy enough, a cough, a sneeze, a hiccup, and say 't' the doctor answered. (But it was not so easy, even then. Disputes about the name of the pioneer days and newspaper battles raged on the point of the final letter, whether it should be a or e.)

The writer thinks Mr. Barnum was wrong about the meaning of the name Chemeketa. But that will have to go over.

(Continued tomorrow.)

"What news of him?"

"We've got him, that's about all. No fault of ours, though—he gave himself up at Tenth Precinct. Said he hadn't done a thing wrong and was tired of hiding. We've got one thing out of him, the name of the man who sent around that cash bond to get him out of jail the other day."

"May I guess all you want to. Who was it?"

"Mr. Courtney? Mr. Douglas W. Courtney?"

"McEniry looked at him sharply. 'Yeah. How'd you know? What's he got to do with this mess?'"

"Much," said Montigny. "Will you arrest him for me, Inspector?"

"McEniry stared. 'Going off half-cocked, Montigny? What's the charge?'"

"Murder," said Montigny. "The Inspector started to say something more, but instead he reached for the telephone."

The proposed all-night grilling by means of which the Inspector had hoped to force a confession from Courtney, instead unconsciously with the arrest of Courtney.

A detective brought the latter to headquarters even before McEniry had heard all that Montigny and the chemist had to tell him.

"Captain Montigny is unquestionably right," the soap expert told McEniry. "I will stake my reputation as a chemist upon it—the ring which I have examined contains imbedded particles of Fallet toilet soap, and soap, moreover, ingrained with soot which corresponds microscopically with the sample of soot from the fireplace in question."

The Inspector listened to his detailed technical explanations with growing conviction.

"For heaven's sake hang on to that ring, Montigny," the Inspector enjoined him. "It's our one and only bit of evidence against the man. I can see it all now. I admit you're right—he used the name of Merriam because he didn't even want the fence to know who he was. But the thing I'm worried about is making a jury see it. Doctor Inman's expert testimony."

"I shall be ready to serve you at any time," Doctor Inman promised, saying good-night. "I did not use all your evidence in this test—a locker ring of that character is fortunately a catch-all. The soap adhering to it is ample for other tests, by other chemists. I am sorry I was not available yesterday; I might have shortened your inquiry. But Captain Montigny seemed to prefer me to all other chemists because I alone know the formula of Fallet soap. Can't you when you need me again, gentlemen?"

"Great work!" McEniry told him. "And you'll certainly hear from us again."

"When they were alone the Inspector shook Montigny's hand solemnly.

"I apologize, Captain, for all the dirty cracks I made about your fancy claims," said McEniry. "If you hadn't come into this case I might have been a good deal more of a man. This slick bird Courtney certainly covered his tracks—except for this one slip-up."

Montigny shrugged deprecatingly. "He was perhaps too convincing. There is a point where too much artifice becomes merely artifice. The small boy safely cleared of one lie embroilers it with other lies—unnecessary lies—to make it more convincing. It was the necessary lie of the smeared bedclothing which trapped Courtney."

wished to smear on the bedclothing. He left a quantity in his ring. He used a distinctive soap for the purpose of getting off the woman's fingers—left unwittingly, a quantity of that also in his ring."

"But he must have washed his hands many times since last Monday night," objected Nobby. "Why didn't he wash those traces from his ring?"

Montigny nodded gravely. "The point is well taken. He was not worn his ring. He took it off, by his own admission. The day following the murder he was not wearing it then. I noted the pale band on his finger where he had been wearing a ring, but he was wearing it no longer. I looked for it later, in his rooms. If you will pardon the expression, stole it. It is a very precious scarab."

"But you are sure he had no access to similar soap elsewhere?" persisted Nobby, defending his last ditch.

"He does not use, at his apartment, at his office, or at his club—I have checked these matters—Fallet toilet soap or any soap remotely resembling it chemically."

"Then we had better go upstairs," said Nobby suddenly, "and tell this to Inspector McEniry."

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