

The Bayonets that Bloom in the Spring, tra--la!

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sway Us; No Fear Shall Awe" From First Statesman, March 22, 1851

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Charles A. Sprague Editor-Manager Sheldon F. Sackett Managing-Editor

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Through Emerald Land

THE trip from Salem to Bellingham, which the editor was privileged to take the past week, is reversing the reel of spring; a journey backwards from early roses through snowball bushes, lilacs, Scotch broom, dogwood to tulips and narcissus.

The cities are set like precious stones along the ribbon of highway, with well-tended lawns, and flower gardens abloom. The only plague spots are near the cities, like the shack fringe along the super-highway from Seattle to Everett, where cars speed in the four lanes past a bewildering array of gas silos, beer joints, barbecue stands, neon signs, garish sign boards, and all the accumulated litter of get-rich-quick commercialization.

Bellingham covers as do the other cities on the sound, the coastal flat and the rising hills and bluffs of the shoreline. The approach to the city is over the Chucanut drive, justly world-famed. It follows the curve of the shore and the marine view is one to thaw petrified hearts.

The state boundary of the Columbia river is a legal division; but geographically western Oregon and western Washington are continuous in climate, soil conditions and flora. The break probably comes at the Calapooya divide at the head of the Willamette valley, for the country does change considerably in southern Oregon. The Siskiyou mountains make another break between that district and northern California.

Our observation is that the Willamette valley is much superior as an agricultural area to most of western Washington. The country there is rougher, the soil less fertile. It is more raw, large areas cut-over and now grown-over by deciduous trees. In our valley the new has worn off; the open areas are cultivated or in well-kept pasture land (not bracken); with frequent copses of second growth in the valley and covering the foothills. Even the rich Skagit valley flats, seat of a rich dairying district, did not seem so prosperous and well-kept as 15 years ago.

Washington cities are livelier however than Oregon cities. The state is more commercial and urban; less rural. Olympia is a much smaller capital than Salem, but more cosmopolitan.

The mound prairie country south of Tacoma and around Olympia is aflame with golden broom,—acres of it. This is its native land for the northwest coast, Hudson's Bay men being credited with scattering the seeds at old Fort Nisqually. Now it sweeps the open spaces and borders roadsides, brilliant yellow in the spring sunshine, at this season redeeming what in midsummer is mostly dry wasteland.

People in Washington are taking a course in elementary percentage,—two per cent. It's the sales tax. There it is complicated by fifth-cent tokens for small purchases which are a nuisance. Some grumbling because of fumbling with tokens; and dislike expressed among tradesmen. But no injunctions or lawsuits. At the Oregon end of the interstate bridge is a large sign: "No sales tax in Oregon." However Oregon keeps up high property taxes while Washington has fixed low limits on property taxes, forcing the spread to sales taxes to provide funds.

A service station attendant in Seattle said he understood Oregon was the bright business spot on the coast. Nice to have that reputation, anyway.

Goudy Retained

THE Oregon relief committee has voted to retain Elmer Goudy as state relief administrator. The report of the investigating committee disclosed no serious evil condition in the administration of relief in this state; and in itself justified his retention. It is always well in reviewing work of this character to give attention to mistakes which were possible but which were not made, as well as to errors which actually occurred. And every circumstance must be studied in the light of events as they transpired, not after everything has happened and results are obvious.

The whole relief business is sorry and unfortunate. But the Oregon committee has done a pretty good job. It has been costly; but life has been sustained; and there has been no proof of any graft or fraud in administration.

With the politicians and trouble-makers thrown down as hard as they were in the committee report, they can make little objection to the reappointment of Mr. Goudy as administrator. Some day we may erect monuments or set up plaques to these men who have conducted with fidelity to trust these hard battles of peace.

Nation-wide Strike

WILLIAM GREEN, president of the American Federation of Labor, threatens a nation-wide strike unless the Wagner and 30-hour-week bills are passed by congress. No one needs to start laying in groceries for a siege. The federation numbers only a small percentage of all persons gainfully employed. Even among unions there are many contracts which permit no sympathy or general strike.

Such threats do Green's cause no good. Laws shouldn't be enacted through duress or compulsion; but on their merits. Neither one of the bills referred to should be enacted at the present time. There is no more reason to turn the country over to a labor hierarchy than to a church, Wall street or other hierarchy.

"Government of the people... for the people..."

The Great Game of Politics

By FRANK R. KENT

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Farm Wealth Division

Washington, May 24.—THE QUESTION of whether the recent meeting of farmers in Washington was conceived, directed or financed by themselves or covertly inspired, managed and manipulated by the gentlemanly field agents of the AAA, anxious to brighten the black lives of Mr. Wallace and Mr. Davis, has not greatly changed the situation.

UNDETERRED by being Presidentially described as "high and mighty," Senator Byrd and others still regard the pending AAA amendments as very bad indeed, are still determined they shall not pass. Since the farmers' gathering, additional facts about it have come to light, which would be referred to. One is that this great "spontaneous" convention, supposed to represent all sections, really came from a small number of States—more than half from North Carolina and Texas. From the former came 1500 of the 3500 present, which fact seems to make the demonstration somewhat lopsided from the national angle.

HOWEVER, that is a detail. The net result of the movement seems to center attention upon two phases of the agricultural situation. One arises from the explanation given to those skeptical about the farmers paying their own expenses. It was stated that these were well-to-do farmers who could afford to do that. This gives point to a recent report from the Brookings Institute, quoted in a bulletin of the Cleveland Trust company.

ONE of the favorite arguments of the "share the wealth" evangelists is that eighty per cent of the wealth is in the hands of two per cent of the people. This is not true, but that does not prevent its constant repetition by the current breed of soap-box orators. The Brookings report shows that the distribution of income among farmers is almost the same as among non-farmers. The richest twenty per cent of the farmers receive almost fifty per cent of all farm income, while the richest twenty per cent of the non-farmers receive fifty-eight per cent of the non-farm income. Thus it seems the concentration of wealth among the more wealthy farmers is almost as excessive as among the more wealthy industrial and commercial groups.

MOREOVER the concentration of poverty shows a similar condition at the other end of the economic scale. Among farmers the poorest twenty per cent receive less than four per cent of the farm income, while among non-farmers the poorest twenty per cent receive just about four per cent. To those fed on the idea that the industrial wealth of the country is acquired by a few men through stock market manipulation, there is food for thought in these figures. The farmers, until recently, have not enjoyed special privileges and conduct their businesses without the aid of corporations, stocks, bonds and legal tricks. Nevertheless, they seem to have managed to divide up their total income among themselves in just about as unequal a fashion as the rest of the population.

IN reflecting upon this, the practical difficulties of a "redistribution" of wealth seem to stand out more clearly. It seems that perhaps inherent differences of ability, energy and thrift must be the real reason of this inequality of wealth, rather than the system. It would seem, too, that this inequality must always exist under any system unless these traits are leveled out by legislation or their possession and exercise subsidized by the Government. That never has worked for anyone else but the New-Deal theorists seem to think it may for them.

THE OTHER point to which attention was called by the recent demonstration is the size of the AAA field force. It is very large. Composed of a great variety of officials, they are paid out of the processing tax and thus not counted as regular Federal employees. They receive from \$8 to \$12 a day and many have traveling expense accounts. They constitute a formidable propaganda and promotion machine, the extent of which is by no means generally realized. Recently there has been some muttering among farmers against so many "hired propagandists." A typical case is given in the naming of Mr. Simon Fishman, of Kansas, to a \$350-a-month job as "lecturer and traveling agent." Mr. Fishman is a Republican State Senator. He has also been referred to as "Wheat King of Western Kansas." He is one of the main beneficiaries of the wheat bonus in the state. He is very oratorical, but discriminating Kansans can see but one excuse for his appointment to write politics on "propaganda. It would be interesting to know how many there are now on the pay roll. The farmers' convention makes these things seem more significant than before.

Girls' Tennis Team Takes Final Series

INDEPENDENCE, May 24.—The Independence high school girls' tennis team completed its season May 23 by defeating the Falls City girls of the Independence courts, 4 to 0. Summary: Soden, Independence, beat Bowman 6-3, 6-2; Syverson, Independence, beat Murphy 6-2, 6-1; M. Hartman, Independence, beat Taylor 6-3, 6-1; Syverson and Soden beat Murphy and Bowman 6-2, 7-5.

Bits for Breakfast

By R. J. HENDRICKS

Why Oregon is a better walnut state than California:

In its issue of Saturday, May 18, the Portland Journal carried, under the heading, "Oregon Can Sell," an editorial article reading:

"A state of irritation and a sense of incompatibility prompted the divorce of Oregon walnut growers from the national walnut agreement, being an association that has just been formed here proposes to stand on its own feet in a marketing program.

"Oregon walnuts have something to recommend them. More something in quality. It is the quality that makes so many Oregon products, like prunes and flax, cherries and strawberries, celery and head lettuce.

"And, as has happened in the marketing of prunes and some other products, most of the credit for quality goes to California. Once it was because the good things of Oregon were marketed under California brand. Now, the walnut growers complain, the California interest dominates. Three code amendments were tumbled down by the walnut code authority although supported in Oregon interest by the North Pacific Nut Growers association, the Oregon Nut Growers association and the Eugene Fruit Growers association.

"A reason why California dominates in the marketing of western products is, of course, the energy and aggressiveness of California marketing organization. At the basis of California success is cooperative marketing.

"Marketing wisdom need not be monopolized by California. Oregon can grow the products, Oregon can sell them."

Thus ended the Journal article. There are three reasons why Oregon is a better English walnut state than California.

First and most important is the fact that quality is in favor of the Oregon product; the difference is what amounts to a selling value of about five cents a pound on an average in favor of the Oregon product.

BARCLAY AND MALM WIN ON 4-H WORK

MIDDLE GROVE, May 24.—Grade school closed Friday with a picnic, sports and achievement day program in which the girls' and boys' 4-H clubs exhibited their work for the year. Donald Barclay scored 100 per cent in a judging contest in the boys' division, therefore winning a prize while Earl Malm was credited with the best project.

Mrs. Mildred Yunker, after attendance at Farmers' Union convention at Albany where she has been directing the singing, will join her husband at Manzanita, near Nehalem, where he is operating a truck in SERRA work. Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Pemble of Farnhamville, Iowa, are visiting at the L. E. Dudley home with the intention of locating in the west. Mrs. Dudley is a sister of Mr. Pemble.

Members and friends of the Woman's Missionary society were held Wednesday afternoon with an appropriate program given by their daughters at the home of Mrs. Vera Bassett. Taking part in the program were Mrs. Vera Bassett, Lola Hammer, Fern Suhri, Laura Crane, Geneva Hamner, Katherine Scharf, Mrs. L. Scharf, Glennis Allen, Donald Bassett, Mrs. Thille Davis, Esther Hammer and Genevieve Scharf. During the program dairy cartages were presented to the mothers by little Glennis Allen and Donald Bassett. Refreshments were served.

COMMENCEMENT AT JEFFERSON TUESDAY

JEFFERSON, May 24.—Commencement exercises for the graduates of Jefferson high school will be held at the Masonic hall Tuesday night, May 28. W. C. Jones of Willamette university will be the principal speaker of the evening. Lee Wright will deliver the valedictorian address and Walter Olson the salutatorian.

The 15 seniors are: Bernice Bursell, Phyllis Cole, Lee Wright, Robert Gulvin, Celsita Pratt, Lucille Barnes, Beulah Robinson, Jessie Sorenson, Maurice Mangis, Walter Olson, Sylvia Vasek, Helen Hinz, Raymond Lower, Eleanor Joints and Marshall Jones. J. T. Jones, chairman of the school board, will present the diploma to the graduates. Prof. A. A. Haberly will present the awards.

Ray-Maling to Start Strawberries Shortly

WOODBURN, May 24.—The Ray-Maling cannery at Woodburn is planning to start operating on the barreling of Marshall strawberries about the middle of next week. It is not expected that a large crew will be employed until the canning season starts a little later on.

weather prevails in the walnut districts of California, causing the oil in the nuts to melt and give a dark color and a rancid taste to the meat of the nuts.

The Oregon walnut is harvested without the defects named. It will always be so. In the long run, a quality product will advertise itself—though this is no argument in favor of waiting for the long run.

Second reason. Walnut land must be irrigated in California. The cost is large, and it is growing excessive, by the lowering of the water table. In some districts, water must be pumped 75 to 100 feet more than was required when the early walnut groves were set out. This makes irrigation expensive grow and grove, besides increasing interest on the cost of heavier equipment, and entailing greater average outlay for wear and replacement.

No irrigation is needed in Oregon. The walnut tree sends its own roots and brings up its own irrigation.

Third reason. Cost of land. Good walnut land in California goes at several hundred dollars an acre. Nearly all good in the Willamette valley is sold for walnuts, and land prices here are comparatively very low.

Tens of thousands of acres of walnut trees have been cut down in California, owing to the increasing cost of irrigation due to the lowering of the water table.

Our annual rainfall protects us here in the Willamette valley. We have a combination of showers, sunshine and soil that will ultimately make tree fruit crops the largest in the world for a like extent of territory.

The time will come when a few nut trees will guarantee the independence of a Willamette valley family. The horse chestnut tree is the main basis of life for a large part of the population of Sicily; its nuts feed for stock and food for man. In our valley we are not confined to the chestnut; we have a wide range of possible tree fruit foods.

Yes, "Oregon can sell." But her growers must learn to cooperate.

Leaders worthy of followers, and mutual trust, are more needed than any other two things in the growth, prosperity and well being of Oregon.

SINGLE HOLE YIELDS 10 GALLONS CLAMS

ZENA, May 24.—A party of Zena residents including Frank Crawford, sr., Frank Crawford, jr., Walter B. Hunt and son Kenneth, Robert Crawford, Merrill Ousterhout, Milton Stephens and sons Raymond and Emmett went by truck to the Neatucca river one day this week on a clam digging trip. The group returned with 70 gallons of large size clams. One of their party got 10 gallons of clams out of one hole.

Jessie Worthington reports finding wild strawberries in the Zena hills as early as ten days ago. The berries are large and of good flavor.

Harold French was called here from Winema Monday to testify for R. C. Shepard in the suit for damages brought against him by Arthur Davidson. The jury was 10 to 2 in favor of R. C. Shepard in the trial held at the Dallas court house. The trial excited much interest as it was well attended by folk from this and adjacent districts.

Educational Honorary Honors Robert Goetz

SILVERTON, May 24.—Robert Goetz, superintendent of Silverton schools, has been elected president of the Phi Delta Kappa, educational honorary at a meeting recently held at Reed college, Portland. Vice-president is George Allen Ogden, dean of education at Pacific university, Forest Grove; secretary, Edward L. Clark, chairman of the Institute of Technology, Portland; treasurer, James Manning, instructor in Franklin high school, Portland, and a former Silverton high school teacher.

Twenty Years Ago

May 25, 1915 Rumania, in negotiating with the Allies and is believed to be on the verge of war following Italy's example.

A lengthy verbal battle was waged today in the governor's office between the Consolidated Contract company and allied forces of the state highway department and the Columbia county court over road work in Columbia county.

Candidates numbering 102 will report today for the state bar examinations.

Ten Years Ago

May 25, 1925 Referendum petitions bearing 14,173 signatures against the cigarette and tobacco tax bill were filed with the secretary of state's office today by the attorney for the Oregon Retail Cigar association.



"WHOSE WIFE?" By Gladys Erskine and Ivan Firth

he has, we will soon see how he reacts to the sight of his own handiwork. Vane was standing when they re-entered the studio though he was looking desperately ill. He swayed slightly as he tried to hold himself erect and the side of his head showed a swelling from the blow he had received in his fall. But he seemed composed and quiet. At the sight of the Inspector, his face lit up.

"Why, Ingle, he said, 'I'm glad you're here. What is this nightmare? I've been bullied and told tales to, and knocked about, and for the life of me, I don't know what it's all about.' He held out his hand for the clasp

CHAPTER III The doctor totally ignored his exclamation. "Any idea what he has taken?" he asked Larkin. "Well, sir, I found a bottle of Veronal in the bathroom. He probably took that." "I hope you haven't wiped off any possible finger prints," said the Inspector, tartly. "No, sir. I left everything just as it was, until you should get here."

"All right," said the Inspector, "we'll get it later and hand it over to the finger-print people." The doctor had already loosened Vane's clothing and managed to sit him upright. He forced one eye open, and with a small pocket flash peered into it. He grunted as if satisfied and then bending closer smelt his breath.

"Nothing much wrong here," he said laconically. "Nasty blow on the side of the head. Is a woman supposed to have done this?" The officer flushed.

"What's the matter?" "I'm afraid I'm to blame for it. He said he had been fighting some one moment, and then all of a sudden seemed to go to sleep. I thought he was forcing, so I yanked him up and gave him a clip with my open hand and he fell over and hit his head on the fender."

"The Inspector looked displeased, and Larkin, in answer to the unexpected proof in his keen blue eyes, said, 'I'm sorry, sir.' "All right," Larkin, acknowledged. "This has upset me a lot. Lawrence Vane is one of my very good friends. Where's his wife?"

Larkin hesitated, took a deep breath, and: "On the roof," he said. "What?" exclaimed Ingle. "Right. Will you please come with me, will you? It's a ghastly sight, I'll tell you." The two men left the studio together and went out into the pitch blackness of the roof terrace.

Inspector Larkin flashed his electric torch low as they stepped over the door sill. "The body must have been dragged from this door to the far corner," he said. "There are distinct tracks from here to where it is lying. But the curious part of it all is that there is no sign of any struggle."



Vane cried desperately: "I'm in great trouble here. Isobel has disappeared.... We've got to find her. We've got to!"

ness pregnant with meaning and horror.... It was enough to make the strongest nerves snap with the strain.

Inspector Ingle's face was a sign to both Larkin and Vane and both officers in answer to it, flashed their torches onto that object, huddled in the corner.

Ingle, in the flare of light, never took his eyes off his friend's face.... waiting.... watching.... for the expression that would flash there in the flare of light.

There in the circle of the flashlight, was the gleaming white body of a woman—a beautiful body that under ordinary conditions would have held all the allure of the ages, but that now was a symbol of hate and of sin.... of vengeance and horror unpeppable.

(To Be Continued)