

# The Oregon Statesman

Founded 1851

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"  
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## Fire Hazards in Schools

An effort is being made to stampede the taxpayers of school district No. 24 into voting a \$650,000 bond issue on the ground that great fire hazards exist in structures it is proposed to replace. We do not question the sincerity of the advocates of the bond issue in this respect; and it is easy to conjure up the fears of parents over possibilities of disaster. The word "firetrap" is frequently heard in the discussions. Taxpayers may well spend a little time to examine the buildings in question: the senior high school, Lincoln and Yew Park grade schools. Many will be unable to do so; and to furnish them with pertinent facts this editor made an inspection of the buildings and examined reports of the state fire marshal.

Some elementary guides need to be kept in mind. First, the fact that a building has stood for 30 or 40 years is no proof that it will escape burning in the future. Second, the fact that a building will burn down does not justify condemning it unless there is a grave menace to life which cannot be removed. Third, the hazard of loss of property is not significant because this loss is insurable and the district protects itself adequately with insurance. Fourth the hazard of loss of life must be measured in terms of building use. A school house is not so dangerous as a textile factory or chemical factory for example, where the air is filled with inflammable materials or gases; nor is it so hazardous as a hotel or hospital with sleeping rooms. Fifth, the fact that a building has brick walls on the outside doesn't make it fire-safe for occupants, because building fires rarely start in the exterior walls of detached buildings like schools; and the interior of brick-walled buildings may be just as combustible as a wholly frame building.

One might think, in view of the current contention, that fire hazards are a late discovery in the schools of Salem, which would provoke the inquiry as to where the fire authorities and the school administration and board have been all these years. In truth they have not been indifferent. The schools are subject to regular inspection, and the board has considered reports and acted thereon, with few failures to comply with recommendations.

In only one of the buildings, the senior high school, now being considered do appreciable fire hazards to life exist. The fire marshal has called the attention of the board to these conditions; and corrections should be made. If the bond issue is voted down it may be relied on that the board will make those corrections. There are two danger-spots in this building: one, on the fourth floor, where fire escape means of exit is inadequate and unsafe; second, the ventilating ducts which base is adjacent to the furnace room. These extend the height and nearly the width of the building; the air is circulated through them by fans, which makes a natural chimney for fire to ascend.

It is entirely practical to reduce these hazards without great expense. The furnace room should be insulated and openings covered with fire doors. If the fourth floor continues to be used proper fire escapes should be provided. If additional means of exit is required from the auditorium there is a whole row of windows across the north side where exterior fire escapes could be connected. These changes might cost around \$10,000; but the building would then be reasonably free from risk of loss of life from fire. At some greater expense the gymnasium could be lowered and the auditorium put on top of the gym with exits available in abundance.

It is easy to condemn Lincoln and Yew Park schools because they are frame buildings that have stood over 40 years. A careful inspection will afford some surprises. The buildings are in excellent repair and in good condition; clean; spacious; airy with high ceilings. Neither of these buildings may properly be called a firetrap. Exits are direct and ample and the distance to the outside short. While in each building the furnace is under the central hall, it is well insulated with brick. From first floor doors it is only fifteen or twenty feet to the outside. At Lincoln the stairs do not land directly over the furnace; and at Yew Park there is a third stairway leading directly to the outside. In both buildings good exterior fire escapes serve the second floor. It takes from 45 to 60 seconds to vacate each building.

The Washington school is not on the proscribed list; but we visited it for good measure. This patriarch is over 50 years old but it is a grand building yet. Repairs on it have cost less than for Parrish which is about ten years old. Except for a few patches in floors the original stair treads and flooring are still used. They are kept in good condition, well painted or varnished. There is an abundance of room, though some closet space and shelving are needed. High ceilings provide plenty of air space. In fire drills the building is vacated in 34 seconds. The second floor has four exit stairways besides exterior fire escapes. Fire hazard to life is almost non-existent as a practical matter.

The worst feature about the grade schools is not the fire risk but the poor lighting. At Yew Park we saw rooms about 25x30 with only a single drop cord and light bulb. At Lincoln the trees come so close to the building sunlight is cut off. In the third grade room however an experimental installation of bows providing indirect lighting which is wonderful. Several thousand dollars devoted to such improvement in illumination in all the buildings would surely result in saving of eyesight and better school work.

These old grade school buildings impress one as being sturdily constructed, with spacious rooms, though with window arrangement not so good as in modern buildings. No parent should be ashamed of them; and none should fear for the safety of the children from fire caused by the burning of the building. The children are so trained in fire drills and the exits are so convenient that they would be out of the building in less than a minute.

A note should be added in commendation of the principals and janitors. Everywhere the schools are well maintained and kept clean. No litter is allowed about the furnace doors. Wood fuel is wheeled in only as needed.

To conclude: fire hazards alone do not justify condemning the grade school buildings; they might of the high school except that it is practical to reduce or remove them at not too great expense. This is submitted for what it is worth, as the opinion of this editor; and is based on personal inspection and consultation with competent authority.

## Jittery Stock Markets

STOCK markets are jittery over war scares. Recently they have been moving up, evidently on the scent of war profits. Coppers and chemicals have been strong. Friday markets slumped, also on "war scare". It reminds one of the stock market flurries at the time the world war began. So risky was the market that the stock exchange closed for a period when war broke out. Later came a bull market as American firms gathered in war profits on munitions contracts. In late 1915 on the eve of the Wilson peace move the market took a nose dive, which caused the government to investigate the short selling to see if there had been a leak in information about the Wilson peace move.

After the United States entered the war stocks, except

## The Great Game of Politics

By FRANK R. KENT

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### Postponing Decisions

Washington, Sept. 20. FOR the first two years there appeared to be a deliberate New Deal effort to postpone Supreme Court decisions on the constitutionality of New Deal acts.

It has been stated many times that this was on the advice of Dr. Felix Frankfurter, the Harvard jurist, who probably has had more to do with molding the Roosevelt policies than any one else, and whose young disciples, wedged into a variety of jobs, largely constitute the so-called Brain Trust.

THE theory of postponing the test was understood to be based on belief that in two years these national planning experiments, which are more like the proposals in the platform of 1932 than anything in the democratic platform, would have achieved success and become so firmly established that the court would not dare upset them. This idea proved wrong on both counts—first, the chief experiment—NRA—failed; second, the court struck at its foundations with impressive unanimity. But for the government policy, the invalidity of the NRA could have been determined in six instead of twenty-three months, and a year and a half of futile labor plus much money been saved.

NOW, the question arises as to whether it intends to pursue the policy of postponement or whether it will reverse that policy. Seven out of 10 administration laws enacted at the last session of congress are believed to be unconstitutional by an overwhelming majority of competent lawyers. But, unless the administration chooses to facilitate instead of delaying decisions, not one of these acts can be finally passed upon before the next presidential election. In a recent survey Mr. David Lawrence pointed out that the average time elapsing between the passage of New Deal legislation and court decision has been 15 months. It took twenty and one-half months to get the gold clause decision, twenty-three months and eleven days before the NRA verdict was had.

THE AAA and the TVA cases have taken an equal length of time to reach the final stage. Decisions are expected on them during the October session. The prevailing belief is that the TVA will be upheld, but the AAA knocked out so far as the original act is concerned. However, AAA can, it is claimed, be continued under new amendments adopted at last session and which cannot be tested, unless the government cooperates, before the election. That it will not try to hasten action on them nor on either the Guffey coal or the Wagner labor board act is regarded as certain—on the first, because it is regarded as undesirable to shut off the gentle flow of checks to the farmers before election; on the other two, because organized labor leaders want to get as much advantage out of these laws as they can before they are declared unconstitutional, as nearly everyone expects them to be.

SO it seems likely the AAA and TVA decisions—one of which the government is likely to win, the other lose—will be had before the election, but the people will not know definitely about the validity of the acts of last session until after they have elected a president. As the validity of these acts ought to have some effect upon their judgment, it seems a pity the test will not be allowed before the vote. It would make clearer the issue between the New Deal and the basic law of the country. However, it promises to be fairly clear despite the postponement. The idea that there is conflict between the two seems to be sinking more deeply into the public mind all the time. It is interesting, too, that it is the Jeffersonian type of democrat what is more in constitutional grounds than any one else. One of these from Virginia recently sent in the following quotation from Thomas Jefferson to refute the suggestion that Jefferson could even remotely approve the New Deal direction.

"In questions of power," wrote Mr. Jefferson, "let no more be said of confidence in man, but bid him down from mischief by the chains of the constitution."

## Emma Kramer Returning To Monmouth After Year Absence in California

MONMOUTH, Sept. 20 — Miss Emma Kramer is taking possession of her home on S. Whitman street for the winter, after an absence of a year, part of which time Miss Kramer spent in California with relatives. Her sister-in-law, Mrs. Edith Bon Durant, of Hillsboro, will make her home with Miss Kramer.

Edith Yarnell, who has occupied the Kramer residence, has moved with her daughter, Miss Edna June, to the Young house on N. Monmouth avenue.

## Ten Years Ago

September 21, 1925  
Federal dry forces are concentrating on illicit dealers and leaving petty offenders to local authorities.

The International convention of Odd Fellows and Rebekahs is meeting in Portland this week.

A Seattle woman planted a neat right on the jaw of a traffic officer in that city today when he told her to retrace her steps when the signal said "stop".

Speculating now is like gambling, and the swings are wide and losses or gains big. Should war come some companies would profit, and speculators would begin like foxes to smell out the winners. It is a sad day though when stock trading gets its stimulus from war's waste.

## Bits for Breakfast

By R. J. HENDRICKS

How Sheridan got four trains of rations routed for Lee's hungry army the day before its surrender:

The average reader knows young second Lieutenant Phil Sheridan, then aged 30 years and less than 6 months, left Salem Sept. 1, 1861, called to the Civil war. (He was born March 6, 1831.)

Also that he told his friend A. Bush, founder and publisher of the Statesman, upon leaving, that he hoped for promotion; believed he might get to be a captain—if the war lasted long enough.

And that, in three years and a few days more than seven months thereafter, through General Custer, under his orders, he received the flag of truce (a crash towel) from General Robert E. Lee at Appomattox court house, April 9, 1865—ending the Civil war.

In his Memoirs, General Sheridan wrote of a pathetic if somewhat amusing incident of the five last days of the war. His account follows:

"From the beginning it was apparent that Lee, in his retreat, was making for Amelia court house, where his columns north and south of the Appomattox river could join, and where, no doubt, he expected to meet supplies. The army was ordered to march early on April 4 to strike the Danville railroad, between Jetersville and Burkeville, then move south along the railroad toward Jetersville, Merritt to move toward Amelia court house, and the 5th corps to Jetersville itself. (Amelia county seat of Amelia county, Va., is about 35 miles east of Appomattox, county seat of Appomattox county.)

"The 5th corps got to Jetersville about 5 in the afternoon, and the 6th corps followed it across the Burkeville road with the determination to stay there till the main army could come up, for I hoped we could force Lee to surrender at Amelia court house, since a firm hold at Jetersville would cut him off from his line of retreat from Burkeville. (Jetersville is about 10 miles from Amelia, and Burkeville a little over 10 miles further west.)

"Accompanied only by my escort—the 1st U. S. cavalry, about 200 strong—read and news itself some little time before the 4th corps, and having nothing else at hand, I at once deployed this handful of men to cover the crossroads till the arrival of the corps.

"Just as the troops were deploying, a man on a mule, headed for Burkeville, rode into my pickets.

"He was arrested, of course, and being searched there was found in his boots this telegram in duplicate, signed by Lee's commissary general:

"Just as at Amelia court house, short provisions. Send 300,000 rations quickly to Burkeville Junction."

One copy was addressed to the supply department at Danville (large city about 70 miles distant from Appomattox and near the North Carolina line) and the other to that at Lynchburg (about 20 miles west of Appomattox.)

"I surmised that the telegraph lines north of Burkeville had been broken by Crook after the destruction of the telegraph wires, which were written up in account for their being sent by messenger.

"There was thus revealed not only the important fact that Lee was concentrating at Amelia court house, but also a most worthy basis for the despatching of troops sent word to Crook (General Crook) to strike up the railroad toward me, and to Merritt, . . . on the heels of the enemy, to leave Mackenzie there and close in on Jetersville. Staff officers were also despatched to hurry up Griffin with the 5th corps, and his tired men redoubled their strides.

"My troops, too, were hard up for rations, for in pursuit we could not take any food. I therefore concluded to secure if possible these provisions intended for Lee.

"To this end I directed Young (chief of scouts or spies) to send four of his best scouts to Burkeville Junction. There they were to separate, two taking the rail-

road toward Lynchburg and two toward Danville, and, as soon as a telegraph station was reached the telegram was to be transmitted as it had been written and the provisions thus hurried forward. . . . As the enemy had been feeling us ever since morning (Apr. 4), to learn what he was up to I directed Crook to send Davies' brigade on a reconnaissance to Paine's crossroads. (Gen. H. E. Davies, who wrote one of the best books on Sheridan.)

"Davies soon found out that Lee was trying to escape by that flank, for at the crossroads he found the Confederate trains and artillery moving rapidly westward.

"Having driven away the escort, Davies succeeded in burning nearly 200 wagons, and brought off fifty pieces of artillery. Among these wagons were some belonging to General Lee's and to General Fitzhugh Lee's headquarters. This work through, Davies withdrew and rejoined Crook. . . . I sent despatches to General Grant, explaining what Davies had done, and telling him that the 2nd corps was arriving, and that I wished he himself was present. I assured him of my confidence in our capturing Lee if we properly exerted ourselves. . . . General Grant, who on the 5th was accompanying General Meade toward Burkeville, . . . set out for Jetersville immediately, but did not reach us till near midnight. . . . We went over to see Meade. . . . In this interview Grant . . . stated that the orders Meade had already issued would permit Lee's escape, and therefore must be changed, for it was not the aim only to follow the enemy, but to get ahead of him, remarking during the conversation that he had no doubt Lee was moving right then. . . . When, on the morning of the 6th, Meade advanced toward Amelia court house, HE FOUND, AS PREDICTED, THAT LEE WAS GONE. It turned out that the retreat began the evening of the 5th and continued all night."

Here Sheridan in his Memoirs described the battle of Sailor's creek, on April 6. He said: "Just after crossing Sailor's creek, a favorable opportunity offering, both Merritt and Crook attacked vigorously, gained the Rice Station road, destroyed several hundred wagons, made many prisoners and captured 16 pieces of artillery.

"This was important, but more valuable still was the fact that we were astride the enemy's line of retreat, and had cut off from joining Longstreet . . . a corps of Confederate infantry under General Ewell, composed of Anderson's, Kershaw's and Custis Lee's divisions, Stagg's brigade and Miller's battery. . . . The complete isolation of Ewell from Longstreet led to the battle of Sailor's creek, ONE OF THE SEVEREST CONFLICTS OF THE WAR, for the enemy fought with desperation to escape capture, and we bent on his destruction, were no less eager and determined."

(Concluded tomorrow.)

## Osborne Prune Drier Running Two Shifts as Harvest Hits Strides

AMITY, Sept. 20.—Mrs. Dora Schoelcraft of Dilleys was a guest at the home of Mrs. J. M. Umphelette Tuesday and Wednesday.

Prune picking is well under way in this locality. The W. R. Osborne prune driers are running two shifts daily. There is an average crop but the prunes are small.

## The Safety Valve

Letters from Statesman Readers

### CONDEMN'S LOOSE CONDITIONS

Portland, Oregon, is manifestly paying a fearful price in tears, blood, civic decency and economic destruction, for the privilege of obtaining revenue from the sale of intoxicating liquor. Figures recently given out by the city police department disclose, there have been fifty-one traffic fatalities during the present fiscal year, with nearly three hundred injured, and sixty-five percent of the damage done was attributed to intoxicated drivers.

No matter which way you turn in Portland you are confronted with booze, booze, booze. When you can't see it openly through the windows you can smell it in the air. Like the rancid fumes that emanate from the paper mills, one can scent the sour odors of malt from any direction. I have never seen liquor in the apartments where we have our rooms, but the hallways smell like a brewery. Street cars, motor buses, grocery stores, hotels, hospitals, mortuaries and churches, all reek with the disgusting mal-odors of fermented brew.

God know any place is had enough these days, but Portland should be given the far-lined bath tub for low down debauchery. A fellow who walks down the street here should possess the agility of a mountain billy-goat, to sidestep the automobiles, caroming over the side walks, with maudlin drivers at the steering wheels. Take it from me, folks, if you should have any business in Portland, drive up early in the morning and get off these highways after nightfall. You may get your new car smashed up and your neck broke.

Skeptics will doubtless say that a statement like this is just fanciful balderdash, but the figures are on my side, and so are the undertakers. Personally, I hold such an infernal prejudice against liquor, that I would never consent to any method of control, federal control, or any other kind for I will have nothing to do with it. But if I were compelled to choose between the systems of liquor control we have in Oregon, and the old time saloons, I would take the saloons.

Portland now has 1400 licensed places that are dispensing intoxicating liquor, and I do not suppose

## Good-bye Summer—There Isn't Any More



## "CAST INTO EDEN" By HENRY C. ROWLAND

CHAPTER XXVII

Jerome had dreaded the necessity of mutilating the rare old Spanish chests. He was connoisseur enough to appreciate their beauty and antiquarian enough to estimate their value. Also he was sailor enough to feel a stab of superstition at the finding of the keys in a critical moment when something of infinitely greater beauty and value was threatened. The diversion created by the sharp ringing had steadied Jerome. The chest keys suggested clothes and clothes suggested the responsibility of civilization. A man at home whose income had ceased should not take unto himself a wife until he could support her, so why do so anywhere.

Linda also had dreaded violating the chests, but for a different reason. She had come to accept the absent proprietor as the Lord of the island paradise, but no loving or merciful one. She thought of him as a beetle-browed tyrant with a shambok in one hand and a steel hook where the other belonged. She reasoned that nobody but an unholly terror would dare go off and leave valuable possessions unprotected. The chances were that his name was known and dreaded all along the Coast. The sign on the Tree of the Forbidden Fruit seemed to indicate as much. It promised immediate retribution with no reference to name or address or the guilt or identity of the violator.

Thus relieved in mind and exhausted in body they fell asleep much as good children do on Christmas Eve, when the excitement of a joyful situation is soothed by the fact of its benefits being close ahead. Every person of sense loves to savor happiness a little before it is assimilated, and such a process is not arrested by sleep. The unconscious is happily aware of the bright promise, and diffuses the sense of beneficence.

Jerome was awakened by the macaws: "Well, what in blazes do you want?" several times repeated. This impolite question appeared to be the extent of the bird's English diction. It was the sort of which one rendition might make a hit, and the second be still a laugh, if properly synchronized.

The macaw had so far kept within the line of demarcation that separates the comedian from the bore. It had accomplished this by absenting itself from the house premises until something appeared to be going on. Jerome reflected on the unconscious subtlety of putting on a single act in one's repertoire at a moment when it could make a hit, whatever the situation. That he reflected, was what had got the parrot species popularity, just as it had got the owl species an ancient and lasting reputation for wisdom through what might be called the "reverse English," in this case, altogether.

There were more people like that macaw, he told himself, than there were macaws like that macaw. They had one line, and if they were clever enough and self-contained enough to hold it until the right moment, their reputation became established.

It occurred to him then that the macaw for all its limitations and one-phrase boisterousness never delivered without an audience. Jerome got up and went out to see if what this audience might consist of. There was none apparent. Yet the macaw, perched on its high branch, and entirely indifferent to such a dead-head as Jerome, kept on repeating at nicely timed intervals: "Well, what in blazes do you want?" Between these efforts it pulled itself a little. The chances were, Jerome thought, that there was an audience invisible to himself in the bush,

not far away. It could not be Captain Moriarty, because the greatest ambition of that Gentleman of Fortune had been to leave the island and report what he had found there. Even without such a report, he had urgently desired to leave the island. It could not be any of the gorilla family because the macaw was too used to them to waste elocution.

The macaw, Jerome decided, must have been formerly the pet of some English-speaking agent of a Central American port and a man who disliked any interruption to a siesta that was prolonged. His peevish interrogation had impressed itself on the bird's mimicry and, with that odd intelligence that birds possess, it had learned how to use that

the living room and work her down to the beach. This ought not to be difficult as the pitch of the stream was fairly steep and the stones in its bed smooth and slippery, in some places covered with moss.

He stepped inside to awaken Linda and rapped sharply at the door of her room, which was ajar. There was no answer. He rapped again, then looked inside. Linda was not there. The wooden shutters of a window were open, and its screen that was hung on hinges was also open. More startling still, the lid of one of the big richly carved chests that stood against the wall beside the window was raised, held up by props at either end.

Jerome's first emotion was anger at this Pandora box curiosity that

He rapped again, then looked inside. Linda was not there.

phrase whether to impress or to annoy. The macaw had never shown the slightest friendliness, nor even chumminess, which is a low-grade friendliness for mutual satisfaction. The social relationship of the macaw had been rather that of a neighbor who looks on the other as something unpleasant in happening, not to help but to comment and then report. There was nothing enduring about the macaw. It had never approached them more closely than its favorite branch about twenty feet overhead, from which it had seemed to watch them for awhile with prying scorn, then give a derisive cry and fly away.

Jerome now reflected that the macaw never ripped out its English vocalism except at something unusual, something of a trespass character. The bird's intelligence associated the query with the sudden appearance of somebody. But there was nobody to be seen about the premises.

The sun was well up, which meant that it was already broad day. Jerome was annoyed at having overslept for the first time when there was so much to be done. They had to haul the dory out of

the living room and work her down to the beach. This ought not to be difficult as the pitch of the stream was fairly steep and the stones in its bed smooth and slippery, in some places covered with moss.

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pose it ever had more than two hundred saloons at any one time in its history. The Oregonian reports that the entire municipality is in the throes of gangster rule. Racketeering and open gambling are rife here, and every one in authority from the mayor down, seems to have sold out lock, stock, and barrel, to the satellites of the underworld.

This is exactly the condition Portland will have as long as Oregon has legalized liquor, for gambling, racketeering, political corruption, bribery and prostitution are the logical fruits, that fall from the branches of this gigantic tree of depravity. ALLEN O. HESS, Portland, Ore.