

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Us, No Fear Shall We"

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Unbeautiful Willamette

EXCEPT in seasons of flood most people know the Willamette river at Salem as a moat separating Salem from West Salem, crossed by a bridge. It is used a little for transport of logs or operation of a freight steamer to Portland which comes in and goes out so quietly that few know whether it is operating or not. The community uses the river as a source of municipal water from one end of town and as a carrier for its sewage at the other end of town. So far as the river's entering into the consciousness of the residents as other than a geographical fact the score is practically zero. The river is ignored; and very decisively, so far as the city is concerned "Beautiful Willamette" exists only in an old poem which Sam Simpson, one-time editor of The Statesman, wrote.

Some day people will wake up to the possibilities of making the river a real civic asset, on its course through the city. We speak not of it as an economic asset, though that should come in greater degree, but as a beauty spot and recreational feature. Most cities, it may be said, are located on rivers, large or small. The older cities have come to realize the value of improving river fronts. Salem residents who have traveled have seen what has been done in this way in some of those cities. At Columbus, Ohio, on the small Scioto river, the river front has been made a real civic center. A wall was constructed on the riverside. On the terrace a driveway, with turn-around at the end was laid out. Public buildings were erected in the area overlooking the water. The development transformed the district into a spot of beauty.

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, has made over an island in the Cedar river into a civic center, with a public auditorium and other public buildings in the center of an attractively landscaped and waterscaped area. A number of years ago the city of Des Moines redeemed the waterfront along the old Des Moines river from a crowded and uncomely spot into a district now the city's pride.

What could be done with the Willamette here? The stretch from the Spalding yards north to the canneries could be acquired and parked, with a seawall in front, with steps leading to a landing for small boats. Driveways could be paved out and the rest of the strip covered with grass, flowerbeds and trees and shrubs. On the West Salem side the tract between the road and the river could be cleared of all buildings and kept as a park. It would have to remain low to accommodate river overflow, but that flood wouldn't damage the park. This improvement has previously been agitated.

Where will the money come from? That question is the sticker, of course; because the property could not be acquired from private owners or the improvements put in without great expense. We cannot answer the question. But money will come, in the course of time, either from private donation or by public assumption of the burden, if the project is given publicity and the possibilities sketched to the people. Immediate action is not expected, which will comfort those who fear a fresh imposition of burden. However, the goal may be set, the subject may be discussed and sentiment for the improvement created. The city will grow in wealth and in ability to take on such burdens. The danger is it may wait so long the cost burden will become far greater in comparison, if the grounds would be improved with substantial structures.

At least, the topic is worthy of consideration.

Putting the Hex on Landon

SIX governors confessed their disappointment over Landon's speech of acceptance. Now Secretary Ickes adds his contribution of gloom, because, he says, Landon was once friendly to many of the proposals of the new deal. Landon's vice, so it appears to Ickes, is that he is not a Tory, not a black reactionary, not a scion of Wall street, not an economic royalist. Landon's vice is that he at one time cooperated with the Roosevelt administration in some of its alphabetical adventures.

There need be no worry over such a charge. The republicans of the country, as Senator McNary said at his farm home recently, were genuinely cooperative with the administration when it came into office. They even laid aside some of their own beliefs in order to help Roosevelt meet the problems at hand. But such cooperation by no means meant approval of the program as a permanent policy; nor did it mean the republicans could not later urge a change when the policies failed. Most of these undertakings were grants of power in blank. Republican congressmen joined in the grant of power, without knowledge of how it would be used. If the power was unwisely used, as it so proved in many cases, then the republicans are not directly responsible therefor. The Statesman, for example, cooperated with NRA both in its plant operations and in its editorial and news policy. At the same time it made predictions that the NRA plan for regimenting business would fail, predictions which swiftly came true.

At Cleveland the republicans sought to find a man who could NOT be charged with being a reactionary, a member of the old guard, a tory. They selected Landon, in part because he represented a new and fresher viewpoint; precisely to meet the croakings of the democrats that the party was a tool of Wall street. Now that Landon is the nominee it finds he is being blasted because he has some marks of the new deal upon him, and the blasting comes from the new dealers themselves.

Landon was not our private choice for the nomination. But we incline to this opinion that he represents rather accurately the present attitude of the vast majority of the American people regardless of party; a desire to promote recovery, without any radical overturn of our form of government or of the economic order; plus a conviction that that can be done. The American people went along with Roosevelt on the new deal in its early days; but they too are fed up on it, and now anxious to get back to sanity and solid ground in politics and economics. That is why the Landon and Knox ticket has met with approval. Incidentally that is why the optimism of Farley, et al., has been oozing fast since the Cleveland convention.

Garner Makes a Speech

VICE President Garner unbuttoned his lips enough to make a speech to the folk back in Texas, and his few informal remarks have caused reverberations not only through his own state, but throughout the nation. The vice president said, in his jovial mood, that he had an agreement with the president in 1933 that Roosevelt would do all the talking and he would do all the work. Garner has done work, a vast amount of it, in handling the politics of relations between the congress and the president; and only his skill has saved Roosevelt on many occasions of legislative battles. But now Garner has talked, and what he has said must cause a few shivers in the high democratic command. Garner said in plain language that he told his good friend Jesse Jones, head of RFC who wanted additional power for his agency:

"I told him, 'No, I want to take some of your power away.' I want to get out of this business of the government in business."

Couple this with the now famous letter of Garner's to his old Texas friend, Kirby, a lumberman of the southwest, who wrote beseeching his aid in stopping the vagaries of the

Interpreting the News Bits for Breakfast

WASHINGTON, Aug. 6.—One aspect of the many-sided change now under way in America is the organized effort of the Democratic national committee to get the Negro vote as a mass for a Roosevelt and a Democratic ticket. For the first time I imagine, a Democratic national headquarters has a Negro section, with eastern and western divisions, manned by Negro leaders, designed to organize the Negro vote and get it cast for the Democratic nominee for president. Such a setup has long been familiar in the Republican party organization, in the Democratic organization it is a novelty, and one with many implications, many signs of the deep-reaching change which the New Deal has wrought in the historic Democratic party and in America.

The effort of National Chairman Farley and the other Democratic national leaders to capture and hold the Negro vote has been under way since 1932. In the election of that year, the Democratic party passed into control of northern leaders of the party to a degree that never existed before. The number of southern Democrats elected to congress in 1932 and 1934 was not increased, for all congressmen from the south were already democrats. But the number of northern Democrats in congress and in governorships was so greatly increased that the northern leaders now dominate the party. The south has come to the Democratic organization, which the northern leaders determined that to hold their dominance within the party, and also to keep the Democratic party dominant in the nation, it was desirable to capture the Negro vote, which ever since the Civil war has been prevalently Republican. The program of winning the Negro vote was facilitated by the relief funds, of which Negroes are large beneficiaries, and which are administered mainly by Democratic officials.

The program is under way everywhere in the north, with emphasis on the big cities, which have large Negro colonies. The program seems successful. In Pennsylvania, in the past four years, the number of northern Democrats was negligible. Now, it is estimated that upward of 100,000 Pennsylvania Negroes will vote Democratic next November. In Pennsylvania, Senator Guffey and Democratic Governor Earle, after they captured the state in the 1934 election, adopted aggressive policies designed to get and hold the Negro vote. In the Democratic "victory parade" in the state capital, a Negro division was given a prominent place. Governor Earle signed a civil rights bill forbidding discrimination against Negroes in hotels, beauty parlors and the like. The bill did not all increase the rights the Negroes had under the constitution, but it served to impress the Negroes with the idea that their status had been improved under the first Democratic state administration in more than 40 years.

Of all the devices inaugurated by Messrs Guffey and Earle, the most effective was a policy they initiated to the effect that Negroes should be appointed to office in proportion to their ratio of the whole population. This raises a question which southern Democratic leaders must face. The northern Democratic leaders, who now dominate the party, are committed to a policy that Negroes shall hold office in proportion to their numbers. A collateral policy, of course, is that Negroes shall be urged and stimulated to vote.

This policy is pursued by the northern Democratic leaders within their states. Can they pursue this policy in their states without pursuing it in congress? How will the southern Democrats feel about that? For 70 years, southern Democrats have feared legislation by the federal congress which would stimulate Negroes in the south to go to the polls and protest their fears. That a Republican congress might do this is a main reason that has kept the south Democratic, kept it continuously hostile to the Republican party.

The Negro in politics becomes a problem only in proportion to the density of Negro population in the state to which it applies. In the south there are many communities, including one state as a whole, in which Negroes are a majority of the population. In such communities, if Negroes were stimulated to vote, and if they were given offices in proportion to their numbers, the

new deal, and you will find that the vice president is almost eligible for trial for heresy. In the reply to Kirby Garner said he couldn't do all he wanted to do, and let it go at that. The inference was plain, just as is the inference of his remark in Dallas Wednesday: Garner is a democrat and not a new dealer.

In this respect he has plenty of company, in congress and out. A great many true followers of the democratic traditions are out of sympathy with the new deal policy of Franklin D. Roosevelt. They say, and with accuracy, that it is a new deal party and not the democratic party. This party is more in tune with the old republican "progressives" like Norris and LaFollette than it is with the party of Jefferson, Jackson, Cleveland and Woodrow Wilson. The pressure for concentration of power in the central government, for expansion of government to a horde of bureaus, for opening the treasury to pour out billions and billions of dollars for local benefits shocks those who grew up in the old faith of a simple government of reserved powers, with close compliance with the constitution, and rigid economy in expenditures.

The pertinent question is, how many of these true democrats are going to take a walk, not openly, but figuratively when they mark their ballots in November? These voters have a rendezvous with their own consciences on election day. Will they stand by their firm convictions on political questions? Or will they adhere merely to the label although its meaning is clear gone? It is not an easy decision to make. We shall not make it for them. But signs are clear that many thousands of democrats will stand by their conscience and their convictions and put country above party, even if it means to vote the republican national ticket.

Queer battle song in Rogue River Indian war of 1855, ended with trace on the word of General Lane.

(Continued from yesterday.) Quoting further from Col. Hunter's book: "Our horses stampeded and scattered, excepting one which was being held by one of the boys. This he immediately mounted and 'struck out' for our camp on Rogue river."

"The first glance showed us that we must retreat to the foothills; this we did as fast as we could, assisting our wounded along, leaving our dead as they lay."

"Reaching the timber, we found that seven of our comrades had been killed and that seven more were so badly wounded that they could not stand up after we got them there."

"The man on the horse we believed—and it was soon proved—had escaped and gone after the rest of the company. Our wounded had retained their arms and ammunition."

"The Indians first proceeded to mutilate our dead after their most inhuman fashion, cutting, stabbing and gashing, all the while yelling in the most fiendish manner that the mind of man could conceive."

"Then, after securing our animals, they swung around onto the mountain above us, so as to work down onto us from tree to tree. A few well directed shots had convinced them that it would not be a 'healthy' undertaking to follow us across the bottom."

"These movements on their part gave us sufficient time to select our fighting ground. This we made on the first high ground out of gunshot of the bushes along the creek."

"As good fortune would have it a log lay across the narrow ridge. Behind this log we laid our wounded, a man whom we called 'Greasy John,' severely wounded in the hip. 'Greasy John' had fallen and was one of the dead; Crosbie fell by the log with the wounded, being, as I supposed at the time, more dangerously wounded than any of the others."

"The Indians gave us but a short time to prepare for them. We all raised our rifles throughout the friendly trees, that we must stop there and fight it out, or leave our wounded comrades to the mercies of these inhuman fiends, and even then, in all likelihood, be overtaken and killed in detail ourselves."

Local government would be in the hands of Negroes. Without going into the merits of any old and unhappy question, it may be accepted as a pragmatic fact, that the whites of the south will resist the constitution at the time, more south, as a whole, the number of Negroes who vote now is negligible. They are not prevented from voting. Nowhere today, I think is there any law which attempts to deny the Negro his constitutional rights. It is rather that the Negro is not encouraged to vote. Not to solicit the Negro vote, indeed to discourage his voting, is a principle and universal practice of the Democratic party in the south.

Second, you state that I was elected on a "reform ticket." This is entirely erroneous. I was not given the support of any of the church groups, or others of like character, for one reason that being that under date of April 24th I advised the "reformers" that I would support an ordinance licensing and regulating pin-ball machines. As I recall, your paper and the Capitol Journal both cried statements by me prior to the election in which I stated that I would support such an ordinance. So, based on the record, I plead "Not Guilty" to being a sponsor, to being a "reform", to the inference that I have changed my stand on this question.

Now a short statement of the merits of the ordinance. These machines are being operated all over the state, right up to the Salem city limits. The last session of the legislature legalized their use and authorized cities and counties to license the same. No court has passed upon this statute, so we must assume that the same is constitutional. The money will be used to continue to abate the disgraceful condition, which your paper condoned by its support of the men directly responsible for said conditions. You sponsored and secured the election of a majority of the city officials who sat by and watched unlawful conditions in Salem, and now you object to the licensing of machines legalized by our legislature. I submit that your editorial does not appear to be in good faith.

Yours very truly, EDWIN C. GOODENOUGH.

Bits for Breakfast

Our only thought was to stand by our comrades, and fight for them and ourselves to the bitter end.

"Those that were able to fight could command two rifles and four revolvers each, as we could use those of our wounded as well as our own. Some of our wounded comrades could load our revolvers with a piece of shell that fitted one would fit all.

"Our respite was short. The Indians, armed with guns, bows and arrows—few of them had revolvers at the time—soon came down on us, jumping from tree to tree for cover, all the time firing and making the mountains resound with their blood curdling warwhoop.

"They seemed determined to 'finish us up' there and then at all hazards."

"They charged down to within a few yards of our log and trees, but here they met such a withering fire from our Colt's revolvers that those who were able were only too anxious to retreat to a more respectful distance, and for a while contented themselves with firing on us from trees behind which they had taken cover."

"On this first charge there were but five of us on our feet—Crosbie lying with the wounded as dead."

"'Greasy John' and one or two others would from time to time raise on their elbows or to a sitting position, and, over their left, fire a few well aimed shots, then sink back faint and exhausted; soon revive, reload, struggle to a position and blaze away until their strength failed."

"The wounded would reload our revolvers and pitch them to us as fast as we emptied them, when we were being pressed by those charges."

"About this time Crosbie raised to his feet, having got over his 'scare' (as he afterward acknowledged for he had lain unhurt all the time.)

"There he stood, his face flushed, his eyes flashing with daring and his repeating rifle, firmly grasped, and as his glance took in the position of the five who were stationed around the wounded, under such cover as was most convenient, and our poor and wounded comrades, who in different positions were either engaged in reloading pistols, or helping one another dress their wounds, using pieces of torn shirts or drawers for bandages; then at the few 'grizzly' Indians that had fallen so far behind that their friends dare not attempt to remove them all this time standing in open view amid the firing and while friendly voices were calling to him to 'take cover,' his voice rang out clear as a bell and ABOVE ALL OTHER SOUNDS, as he started up the comical song,

"Jordan is a Hard Road to Travel."

(Continued tomorrow.)

The Safety Valve

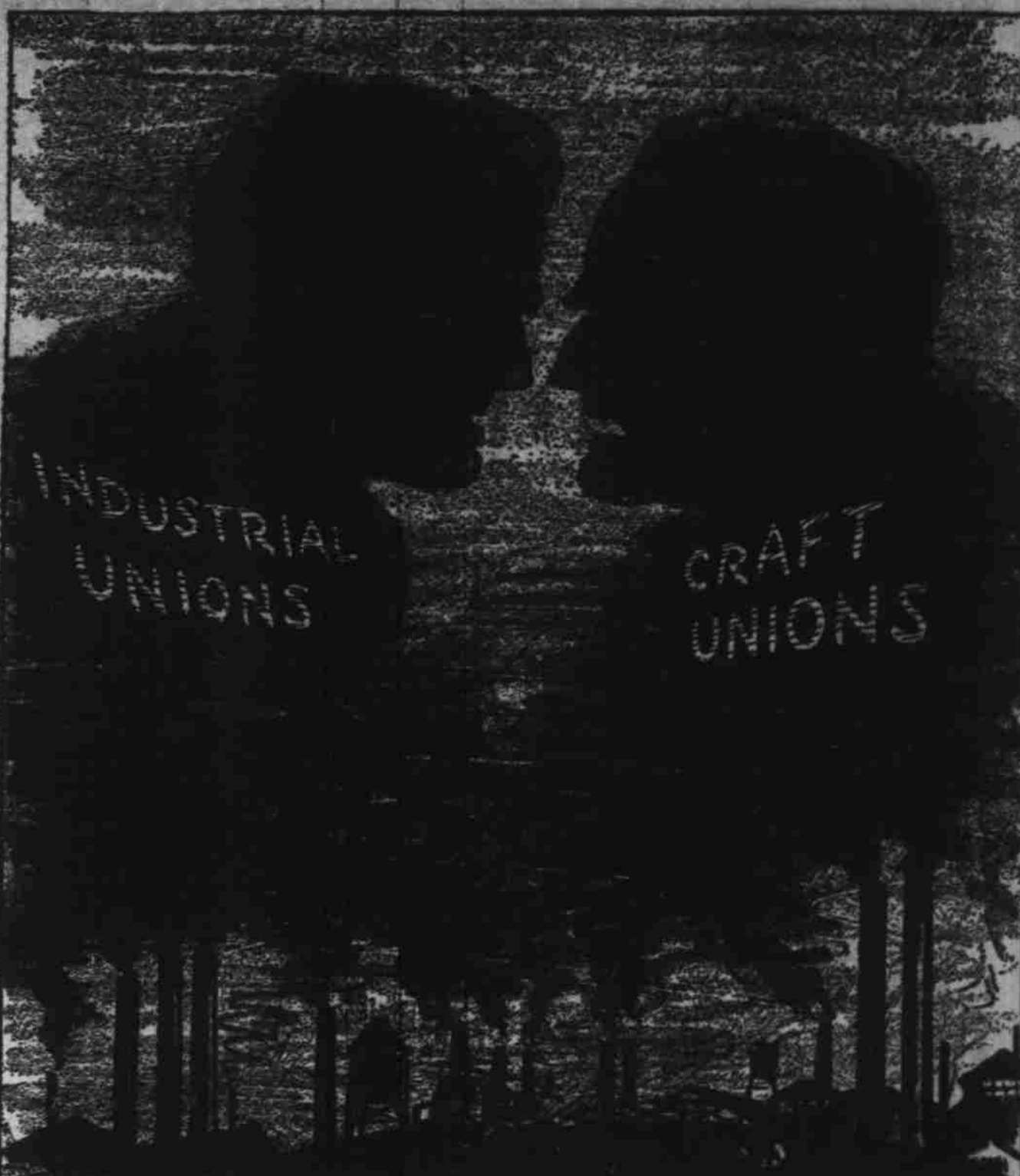
Letters from Statesman Readers

NOT SPONSOR OR REFORMER. Salem, Ore., August 5, 1936. The Oregon Statesman, Salem, Oregon, Gentlemen:

I feel that your editorial in this morning's Statesman with reference to the marble board ordinance introduced Monday night calls for a reply. As Al Smith would say: "Let's look at the record!" In the first place, you single me out as the sponsor of the bill. I am a member of the committee which introduced the ordinance, but I had nothing to do with its introduction any more than any other member.

Second, you state that I was elected on a "reform ticket." This is entirely erroneous. I was not given the support of any of the church groups, or others of like character, for one reason that being that under date of April 24th I advised the "reformers" that I would support an ordinance licensing and regulating pin-ball machines. As I recall, your paper and the Capitol Journal both cried statements by me prior to the election in which I stated that I would support such an ordinance. So, based on the record, I plead "Not Guilty" to being a sponsor, to being a "reform", to the inference that I have changed my stand on this question.

Showdown?



"GLITTERING GIRL" by MAY CHRISTIE

poor head with camphor ice. I'd do it myself but I confess I'm a bit sick to my stomach on them trains—these trains—I mean, I'm a bit queasish—and without further ado she led the embarrassed Vernon out.

"Hush, mother, he'll hear you!" "That cheap-looking skatol!"



"That's all." "Impossible! Where did mildred go to school? Or, like Topsy, did she just 'grow'?" "Only for the fraction of a second did Vernon hesitate ere she uttered the formula her mother had primed her with for the debutante battle of New York and 'Society.'" "I'm eighteen. I was educated in a convent. I've just graduated."

"And now Cinderella's going to do some lip-stopping and grab off a Fairy Prince for herself!" "Don't be so silly. You men are so conceited. First thing in New York—her eyes sparkling—" "I'm going to get you in the big movie palaces and the art galleries—and go about everywhere, and meet all the interesting people that pour into New York from everywhere—writers and actors and poets and explorers—oh, the people who DO THINGS!"

"He looked gently, kindly at her. "Quite an eager child it is!" "Why not let me try to get some culture? To learn things!" She flushed guiltily when he asked: "Didn't you learn enough at the convent?"

"He went on: "Your ambitions are laudable, my child, but the Park Avenue atmosphere—goodness!—isn't particularly likely soil for what might be called intellectual growth for a young girl. I'm far enough from being a prig, heaven knows—but I confess even I, the last time I was there, was a bit stunned by the incessant round of speakeasies and cocktail-parties. Of course, one can study human nature in the raw but it is just as easy and perhaps more profitable to one's health to study it in, shall I say, my construction gang in the wilds of Colorado, or in good old Pa-leash!"

"Sorry to disappoint you, but we've already engaged a splendid room in the Hotel Splendid on Park Avenue!"

"At this moment, to Vernon's dismay, a stout, short figure in a dimly-fitting purple velvet gown with short milk cape and brown cotton gloves appeared frantically before them. "So THIS is where you got to when Pa and I were having forty winks! Come right back to the droon'-room, Vernon!"

"Why, mother, we were just having a talk about—about New York—this is Mr. Shannon, mother."

"Huh!" Mrs. Tyson gave her heavy tongue composed of purple velvet and clusters of violets a backward push, off her moist forehead. She nodded abruptly, disapprovingly, at the somewhat shabby elderly youth. "Mr. Shannon, you'll excuse us—Vernon's pa has a headache—she's got to come right back to the droon'-room and rub his

support for the Stayton island water project, it said, with reference to gambling, in the issue of May 12: "Both of the candidates for mayor and most of those running for the council have expressed themselves as opposed to toleration of gambling and gaming devices. Certainly selection should be made in the list of aldermen so that past conditions will not recur."

Editor's Note: The Statesman accepts the declaration of Councilman Goodenough that he has not altered his stand on the licensing of pinball machines. This paper has not and does not condone gambling past or present. It supported the mayor for reelection, in spite of the heavy gambling, because it felt the issue of major importance was completing the water system. The Statesman made no endorsement of individual councilmen. While urging

Ten Years Ago

August 7, 1926. Gertrude Ederle made history yesterday as the first woman to swim the English channel. She bettered the male record by several hours.

Ashfor, Wash., was wiped out by a forest fire yesterday.

Twenty Years Ago

August 7, 1916. DeWolf Hopper and Marguerite Clark are among the reigning screen favorites appearing at local theatres.

Eddie Rickenbacker won an automobile race on a Tacoma speedway, averaging 52.11 miles per hour.