

# The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"  
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## Retreat From Socialism

BAFFLING to everyone except the apologists of Stalin, dictator of Russia, is the new purge of the party by which more of the "old bolsheviks" have been rubbed out, either condemned to execution or imprisonment or destroyed politically. Stalin's claim is that Trotsky has conspired with Germany and Japan to overthrow his rule in Russia and dismember that vast country or portions of it, among "capitalist" powers. There is scarcely anyone outside of the Stalinists who credits such a fantastic tale.

Max Eastman, a distinguished American author, as well as a staunch believer in communistic theories attributes the purge to Stalin's retreat from socialism and his erection of a new party bureaucracy in Russia, with restoration of many of the features, cultural and economic and political of the "bourgeois" state which Lenin denounced. In a sweeping survey of Stalin's decrees and changes, in the current Harper's magazine Eastman concludes that "the experiment in socialism in Russia is at an end."

"To my mind there is not a hope left for the classless society in present-day Russia. Inside of ten years, barring revolutionary changes, the Soviet Union bids fair to be as reactionary as any country which has emerged from feudalism."

Stalin's retreat from Leninism has been on many fronts. First in culture. Education has lost the freedom which won praise for Russian schools and by decree has reverted to regimentation in method and purpose, and even in uniform. The position of womanhood has been reduced, so now the Russian woman is regarded primarily as a breeder of children. Divorce and alimony are made too costly for the poor; abortion is once more a crime. The attitude toward peace and war has changed; national patriotism is being extolled on typical chauvinistic lines; the idea of international solidarity of workers has been abandoned in favor of compromise with imperialistic governments.

In politics Eastman finds the new constitution a cleverly designed instrumentality for preserving the power of the bureaucrats. There is only one party, only one list of candidates. The upper house, of the so-called parliament is fully controlled by the party executive. So far as the communist party is concerned it has been purged of every element questioning the ruling clique.

Stalin's retreat is apparent also in the economic field. Wages are now unequal, decidedly unequal. Eastman notes the range between low-paid workers in Russia and works executives is about the same as between corporation chiefs in this country and their low-paid employes. The bureau chiefs, executives of manufacturing trusts get good salaries plus perquisites; and are able to invest their savings in government securities or savings banks at seven and eight per cent interest, such investments being free from all taxes, including inheritance taxes. Even the collective farms have in many cases where lands are rich been turned "into a reservoir of special privilege by granting the land in perpetuity to the collectives."

It is clear that Stalin's course is driving a wedge in the communist partisans over the world. Those loyal to the party organization remain faithful to Stalin, and are ready with plausible explanations to justify each new decree he makes, each fresh victim of his vengeance he orders to the firing squad. Others who are soaked in the doctrines but perhaps not active in the party organization have come to doubt Stalin, though Eastman is one of the first to repudiate him. Human nature being what it is, and the craving for power as natural as it is, there should be little surprise that the rulers of Russia seek to entrench themselves in power by decreasing rules of orthodoxy and executing dissidents as heretics. As a rule revolutions burn themselves out, and new deals become frozen into old deals when the initial passions subside.

## Labor Relations

BILLS have been introduced in the legislature, like HB 56 and 57 whose purpose is to require labor organizations to register, and to forbid general and sympathetic strikes. Sponsors of the bills are the shipping public who have suffered because of recent transportation tie-ups. Other bills in the senate define labor disputes and restrict privileges of picketing to actual disputes between employers and employes, and require a 30-day waiting period for negotiation and conciliation. All of these bills labor unions regard as in opposition to their interests.

Perhaps as foil to this pending legislation is a bill to set up a labor relations board designed to enforce collective bargaining, and by barring company unions, in effect to compel obedience to organized labor unions. Unfair labor practices on the part of employers would be forbidden, and these unfair practices are clearly defined, severely restricting the employer from exercising influence over his employes in labor relations. This bill very clearly is on the side of union labor.

The Statesman has a feeling that the bills have been prepared, not so much for a solution of the labor problem, as to advance or restrict the cause of union labor. If ever there was a field which calls for exhaustive study by persons of well-balanced minds and sympathies it is the question of labor relations. What Oregon needs is a general labor code, not a collection of patchwork legislation. To get it some public commission might well be constituted to revise and propose laws setting forth the rights of employers and employes, and protecting the interest of the public. There is no doubt that conceptions of the relations of master and servant are undergoing changes which will need to be reflected in laws. This paper would like to see the legislature authorize a commission to study labor relations with the responsibility of proposing to the next assembly a labor code, rather than to pass piecemeal legislation such as is now proposed.

Prof. Lee of Stanford university is authority for the statement that venereal disease causes ten per cent of the insanity, 75 per cent of the sterility and 50 per cent of the blindness in this country. In addition is its heavy toll of suffering and distress, often borne by innocent victims of the infection. Under the leadership of the United States surgeon general a vigorous campaign for fighting the disease has been launched. The first requirement is to abolish the "shush, shush" of being secret about the disease. Modern science has perfected cures and reliable treatments. Social pressures should force sufferers to obtain competent medical attention promptly.

According to the old jingle, for want of a horseshoe nail the kingdom was lost, which illustrates how small causes may produce large results. There was the painter Whistler for example who failed in chemistry at West Point, left the school, became a very famous artist. Afterwards Whistler said: "Had silicon been a gas I would have been a major general." Fortunately it was for the world that silicon was not a gas, because what an indifferent major general Whistler would have made.

One of the colonists in Matanuska, Alaska, has been ordered to vacate and turn back the property to the government, being charged with "failure to cooperate and making unreasonable demands." The government, it seems can do business on a different plane than it permits employers in running their business. If an employer would make a man for "making unreasonable demands" he'd have the labor relations board citing him for law violation.

The Minneapolis Star uses for a three-column heading: "Emergency Peace Council will Launch Program in City." Alongside the story and under the headings is a two-column cut "Twelve Planes fly to Hawaii . . . One of 12 Naval Giant Bombers." The juxtaposition reveals the confusion in our thinking. We praise peace in the headlines, and build "giant bombers" to be ready for the "next war."

## Bits for Breakfast

By R. J. HENDRICKS

Forty-seven years ago 2-3-37 tomorrow, first bridge went out with high water of 1890:

(Concluding from yesterday.) This article was begun yesterday. So this, the 3rd, is the 47th anniversary of the destruction of the first wagon bridge built across the Willamette.

Something was said yesterday in this column about the depth on the level of the snow that was a contributing cause in its quick melting to the flood of 1861-2, which brought the highest water ever officially recorded at Salem; that there had been a foot of snow on the level.

But two feet of snow, which has not been usual on the level in the Willamette valley, has fallen several times in the past 132 years—since the first white men arrived here who became settlers, the two members of the Lewis and Clark expedition who remained here. Not three, as most authorities have it. Two: Baptiste DeLoar and Francis Rivet. (Next to remain were 12 of the Astor party arriving, one in 1811 and 11 in 1812.)

The Lee missionaries, beginning in 1824, reported deep snows here and high water in the Willamette, in the thirties and forties.

Rev. Gustavus Hines, one of the chiefs of that earliest Protestant mission west of the Rockies on the American mainland, told of such winter weather and high water in 1842.

Other members of that mission spoke about the hard winter of 1837-8. The Portland Oregonian of yesterday spoke of severe weather in 1884-5, in 1895, on December 8, 1919, in February, 1887, the same month of 1893, and in November, 1921.

The Salem Journal on Monday said the present snow is (or was) deeper than the one in 1919, which was perhaps 26 inches, here in Salem.

The present one has been reported from 24 to 27 inches, and on up. On higher elevations, it has been much deeper here; and in places where there was drifting of the first fleecy fall.

That's the way of it. All kinds of memories and many present measurements that differ. And the difference between Portland and Salem snowfall and weather has often been wide. We have never had a so-called "gillythaw" of any severity. Portland has had many.

Joaquin Miller wrote in one of his books that shortly after his people arrived in the Willamette valley stopping near the site of what became Jefferson, Marion county, there were many weeks on end with two and more feet of snow on the level. That was in the winter of 1852-3.

But several of the winters immediately preceding that one had winters that seemed like spring (almost like heaven) to the covered wagon immigrants. Fresh from off the plains. This writer heard some of their descriptions. They were like that.

In the 1890 flood, electric lights were out in Salem, and the water system was inoperative.

People then were not far from the period when all lamps had served, and a little further back candles and torches; and wells were numerous, to they "got along." It would not be as easy now.

In the eighties and nineties, when the Salem system furnished the Willamette river water straight, without any treatment, and liked it, and bragged on its purity, a doubting Thomas, or rather his wife, got drinking water from a neighbor who had a well. It was so cold and pure!

Later it was discovered that the country jail attorney drained into that well! After that Mrs. D. Thomas took her "Williamette" straight.

The official gauge at low water on the Salem side of the Willamette shows 112.5 feet above sea level. The Oregon highway department shows a higher elevation for Salem, or 124 feet. The Southern Pacific shows still higher. They are of course all correct; for their different points.

What would we do for boats on the upper Willamette now, in case of a big flood? We would miss them, and many lives would be lost for lack of them.

Many buildings were in 1890 washed away; homes, warehouses, etc. Including both Salem river docks.

The bridge went out at 20 minutes to 2, afternoon, 47 years ago today. By 2 the water was at a standstill. From 5 to 10 it fell three inches.

Robert Bybee, Portland, had \$20,000 worth of fine racing horses on his farm in Kaiser bottom, five miles below Salem. He wired his alarm, and Ben Taylor and C. W. Pugh took the latter's boat and went down to attend to the animals. They were found safe; on about the only high ground in an island of several thousand acres of waters.

Ben Taylor is still extant, and he told the writer by phone yesterday afternoon that the water was coming into the first floor of the barn, so, for greater safety, they put the horses on the second floor.

One might go on to great lengths retelling the stories of the two most destructive floods—that of 1890 and the one of 1861-2. That meant the last days of 1861 and the first ones of 1862.

That was the time when the whole large town of old Cham-



## "LUXURY MODEL" by MAY CHRISTIE



They brought him back in handcuffs to her. She thought she would faint.

SYNOPSIS  
Enroute to her home in Los Angeles from college, beautiful Elizabeth Harmon meets Gerald Bruton, a stock broker. Her step-father, Colonel James McCarthy, disapproves of Gerald, but after a whirlwind courtship, the young couple slope to Arizona and are married. That same day, in the lobby of a hotel at San Diego, a woman approaches Gerald and exclaims, "Why, Gerald, I'd no idea you were in California. Have you brought your wife along?" On Mrs. Bruton in Chicago! Elizabeth is stunned but Gerald assures her he was divorced, adding that he refrains from telling her for fear of losing her love. Gerald leaves Elizabeth while she takes a nap. In the meantime detectives arrive with a warrant for his arrest on a charge of defrauding investors.

CHAPTER VII  
In that terrible moment of realization, the despised warning of her stepfather came back to her clearly, and his ultimatum that she had defied. "There's to be no going out with this Gerald Bruton. There's never been a scandal in our family . . . I owe it to your dead mother to see there never will be one!"  
Insane susceptibility and mad vanity and recklessness had carried her away.  
She was married to a jail-bird! He had planned to get across the border into Mexico, beyond the grip of the law, taking her with him, dragging her to his own level.  
They would arrest him—and her, too, for complicity. Her life was finished.  
Suddenly her heart stood still, then seemed to turn right over in her chest. For she had heard the quick step of Gerald in the passage outside. She had an instinct to scream, to warn him of the presence of these men and of his danger, but not a sound escaped her dry throat.  
He flung the door open. For one second he stood in the aperture, staring at the four of them.  
Then he stepped back, slamming the door and locking it from the outside. She could hear his footsteps flying down the corridor.  
"McGraw, use your pass-key! Jones, telephone the desk!"  
In a flash they were out in the passage, running like hounds at the quarry. Doors were opened and heads popped out. Elizabeth, shaken to the core of her being, felt she could have died of the shame of it.  
They brought him back in handcuffs to her. She felt sick. She thought she would faint.  
"Gerald," she whispered, "say it isn't true. Please say it isn't true!" Her wet eyes beseeched him.  
His lips twisted in the same way, his hard smile she remembered on the train, when she had exclaimed: "How terrible to be shut away from the world!" and he had agreed with her.  
"I guess we're out of luck, thanks to your overwhelming wish for repose! But we have to yield to the ladies, don't we?" he said sarcastically. He bowed to Elizabeth. "Looks as if our honeymoon will have to be postponed."  
She was staring at a stranger! It seemed as though she were sleep-walking. This thing couldn't have happened!  
The brusque voice of the senior detective crashed into the appalling silence. "It'll be postponed for a matter of ten to fifteen years, buddy. Sorry, sister, but you'll have to come along too."  
Colonel James McCarthy, late of the United States Cavalry, awoke on the morning of the day following Elizabeth's elopement in a very bad temper.  
That Yuma, Arizona, was celebrated principally for its runaway poeg, with 200 to 300 buildings, washed away, and when a steamboat ran clear up to the Marion county court house on High street.

## On the Record

By DOROTHY THOMPSON

Collective Bargaining and the Power Question  
IS IT not curious that the President, while rebuking Mr. Sloan for refusing to bargain collectively with representatives of the Automobile Union, and while his Secretary of Labor seeks in effect to enforce a conference, should himself arbitrarily assault the principle of collective bargaining in another field? A referendum is called to the power fight. There is a curious parallel between the attitude of the President and the attitude of Mr. Sloan. Mr. Sloan says he won't confer as long as the strikers are illegally occupying company premises. President interrupted negotiations with the utility companies because the utility companies affected in the T. V. A. area will not withdraw injunction suits, although these same suits have been pending since last May, and although the President called his power conference last September in the full consciousness that the suits were pending, and the full knowledge that they would be withdrawn only if the government, on its part, suspended further building of transmission lines until an agreement was reached.

There is an issue involved of profound importance for the American people. It is, in the estimation of this column, the issue of the world going through a period of profound social readjustment. And the question is not only what readjustments must be made, but it is also: In what spirit and by what method shall we approach a solution of our problems? Are we to seek solutions by fundamental democratic methods of investigation, reasonableness, and knowledge, seeking everywhere the greatest possible measure of consent, or are we to engage in naked contests of power with the decisions determined by force and maintained by coercion? The whole philosophical basis of democracy rests upon a belief in human reason and the possibility of obtaining collaboration for specific ends between divergent groups. If that basis is abandoned democracy is lost.

The President's Portland speech, one of the finest of his campaign, indicated that he intended to approach the power question in the spirit of liberalism and democracy, concentrating upon the attainment of objective ends. Those ends were "assurance of good service and low rates to the population" . . . the establishment of "the undeniable right" of any community "to set up its own governmentally owned and operated service" . . . the conservation of private utility operation and investment wherever fair rates are charged and only reasonable profits made. "When state-owned or Federal-owned power sites are so developed private capital should be given the first opportunity to transmit and distribute power on the basis of the best service and the lowest rates to give reasonable profit only."

Whether is a liberal statement, and what the liberal spirit will produce or not in the next four years will determine whether we are to move forward into new social and economic forms with a maximum of unity and consent or whether we are to settle down to bitter warfare. And war—the liberals have always said—never really settles anything, but merely sows the seeds for new wars.

## Mrs. F. Dahl, 75, Dies at Woodburn

WOODBURN, Feb. 2.—Mrs. Frederikke Dahl, 75, died at her home at Molalla Sunday morning. She was born July 3, 1861, at Logteor, Denmark, and came to the United States 43 years ago. She had lived in Molalla 15 years. Surviving are her widower, Christen Dahl; two daughters, Mrs. Anna Reimer of Santa Rosa, Calif., Mrs. C. A. Faurie of San Francisco; sons, Henry of Hubbard and Soren of Round Mountain, Calif.; sister at Brush, Colo. Private funeral services will be held at the Boechler-O'Hair chapel Thursday morning at 11 o'clock. Interment will be in Belle Passi cemetery.

## Conference of Dairy Plant Operators Will Be Feature State Meet

CORVALLIS, Feb. 2.—E. H. Christensen, president of the Oregon Butter and Ice Cream Makers' association, recently announced that a new feature, a conference of dairy plant operators, has been added to the program of the five day session of the OBICA, scheduled on the Oregon State campus February 15 to 20. Additional practical and technical information will be given to delegates by H. S. Baird, manager of the Golden States Milk Products company of Santa Barbara, Calif.

## Ten Years Ago

February 3, 1927

At a joint meeting of senate and house or representatives, Governor I. L. Patterson recommended adoption of an income tax. Senator Al Nyrblad, former state governor, will introduce a bill in senate providing for an additional gasoline tax levy of 1 cent per gallon. Charles Hudkins and Rex Sanford have opened an office handling farm and city loans.

## Twenty Years Ago

February 3, 1917

Adolf Greenbaum, son of I. Greenbaum, Salem merchant, has received news from Congressman W. C. Hawley of his nomination for midshipman, representative of 1st congressional district of Oregon at U. S. naval academy. Frank Schmidt, manager of Northwest Fruit Producers, says railroads raising prices so high that manufacturers can't pay for shipment of juices. Charles L. McNary will go to Portland today where he will attend a convention of Western Walnut Growers' association.