

# The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"  
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CHARLES A. SPRAGUE - Editor and Publisher

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## Security and Sloth

THE final bulwark of conservatism and traditionalism is always the foreign office. Premiers may come and go, but the heads of bureaus remain; and they are the ones who set the rigid patterns of international relations. Major policies of course may change with a change in the foreign secretary or premier. Laval for example was very different in his attitudes from Briand. But the defining of foreign relations in all except the most important issues is done by the subordinate chiefs of bureaus who remain from administration to administration. In many respects the laying out of policies in the minor affairs effectively determines the course on the important matters.

Such ingrained conservatism is charged by Hubert Herring, writing in the February Harpers, against our own state department. Secretary Hull brings in his viewpoint; but the division heads are for the most part career men, many of whom cling to methods and policies which do not fit the times. Many times social privilege sets the standard, and foreign relations become a matter of dinners and international marriages and promotions and appointments. This complaint is not new with the present administration. It has come up before. It applies also to the war and navy departments where men attached to the departments often give more time to the battle of social position and official preference than they do to the problems of warfare.

There is the constant clash between old and new, between traditionalism and progress. Under the protection of civil service, however, many departmental bureaus enjoy the calm of the deep sea when storms are raging. They just go on doing their work in the old routine regardless of new deals or raw deals among those at the top. Rarely does the purge go clear to the bottom, the purge of ideas and sloth and routine, we mean, not of personnel; although according to Herring the state department needs a purge of the latter.

## Non-Intervention

EUROPE has been balancing on the rim of a grand free-for-all for months. Spain's civil war has been called a "little world war". Behind the front of negotiations for neutrality of outside powers men and munitions and equipment have been poured into Spain to join hands with one side or the other. Recently a fresh effort at a non-intervention past was made; but the powers have failed to agree on how to enforce the agreement. Meantime Italy, Germany and Russia are accused of furnishing supplies to keep up the fighting.

Now it is reported that France and Great Britain are considering use of war vessels to blockade Spanish ports in order to stop the inflow of men and armament. Italy may regard this as an act of war and turn loose its vast war machine. Thus "non-intervention" may become the very road to war.

While the outside powers haggle and quarrel over which one is breaking its pledge and conniving to stop each other from giving behind-the-back assistance to the Spanish belligerents the revived loyalists have been giving a good account of themselves (or of the Russians or of the foreign legion) in stemming and throwing back the insurgent thrust from the northwest. Even the crack "volunteers" from Italy have been set to rout. The result has stimulated the loyalist cause. But if the war is to continue a battleground between the fascist and socialist theories the Spaniards will be brushed aside while the Italians and Russians fight out their "ideologies."

## Birth and Death Rates

LOST 356,000 babies,—babies who were not born. If the birth rate of 1915 had prevailed in 1936 the number of new babies would have been 374,000 more than it actually was. Owing to improved care of the babies that were born the number of babies whose lives were saved in 1936, over the mortality rate of 1915 was 31,000, which leaves a "deficiency" of 356,000 babies in the United States for one year.

In Russia and Italy and Germany the governments are subsidizing parents to encourage the propagation of children,—for future armies. No such impulse is noted here; but the declining birth rate is enough to cause alarm. Moreover the decline is chiefly at the top, among people of intelligence and culture who are best able to support children and train them well. If theories of heredity are correct then this race suicide will result in the progressive deterioration of the inhabitants of the United States.

The progress in reducing infant mortality is gratifying, the rate declining from 100 per 1,000 live births in 1915 to 48.8 per 1,000 in 1935. But for every baby saved through modern science 11 are lost because they were not born.

Is America to become a nation of greybeards, with more pet dogs than children?

## High Court Statistics

THE legislative reference division of the library of congress has completed a study of the decisions of the United States supreme court since its founding. The mathematical record reveals facts which should be laid like a cold towel on the fevered brows of those who would inflate the court in size because of an alleged tendency to five-to-four decisions.

Here are the statistics: Of the 40,000 decisions rendered by the supreme court only 76 struck at the constitutionality of any part of a federal law. Charles Warren, leading authority, lists 77 cases. Of the 77 cases only 11 were decided by a five-to-four decision. Thirty-two were unanimous. In ten cases there was one dissenting vote; in 14 there were two in dissent; in ten cases there were three dissenters. Out of 12 new deal laws invalidated by the court six were by unanimous decisions and only two by 5-4 decisions. In two cases the vote was 8 to 1; in the remainder 6 to 3.

The figures hardly justify the hue and cry against the court. Out of 40,000 decisions only 76 or 77 invalidated a federal law; and of these only 11 were by the narrow margin of one vote. And even if the high court is increased to 15, one man has the same power to sway the court in an eight-to-seven division as one has now.

A blizzard is said to have done \$500,000 worth of damage in South Dakota. That cannot be. From previous news stories of damage from drought, wind, hail and snow they must use a minus sign, ready to indicate South Dakota's wealth. Enough people persist in staying there, however, to run for the United States senate and hold the federal postoffice.

A want-ad in the Sacramento Bee reads: "Wet Motors baked; basements pumped out." And the editorial cartoon shows the flooded Californian beseeching Jupiter Pluvius to shift his rain buckets, with the heading "enough is enough." No one ever thought California would get "enough" rain.

A preacher at a funeral for one of the victims of the New London school disaster said: "This stricken community bows before the hand of God. He shouldn't blame the explosion on God. The community bows before the hand of the man who connected the school with stolen wet gas."

The sitdowners at the Chrysler plants have gone home. John L. Lewis had quite a little to do with their going. Another tug was the desire to see Julia and Horace and get a tub bath.

## Bits for Breakfast

By R. J. HENDRICKS

Salem grows, as shown by postoffice receipts and increase of phones; bigger's bigger:

Around 1884-8, Salem got her first telephone—that is, the first one not made with rayhide or buckskin stretched over the end of a tin can or a box.

That doesn't seem long; around 50 years—an eye quad in history; less than a needle point in eternity; less than the end of a wasp's sting, which is much less than the end of a needle point.

Some belighted person who never worked in a printing office will wonder what is an eye quad. Well, it is half the size of an m quad, and an m quad makes up the space before the first word of a paragraph. In small type, the space of an m quad is very small; it may be less than the 24th part of an inch. In large type, it may be half an inch, or more.

The first telephone in Salem was in the office of the Western Union telegraph company. No other telegraph company of consequence had then been organized.

The office was in the Chemeketa hotel, and it was not called hotel then. It was the Chemeketa House, as such institutions were then known. It is the Marlon hotel now; enlarged and done over many times.

C. A. Cutting, its first manager, advised that the Chemeketa House had "hardly an equal on the Pacific coast outside of San Francisco," and that it had "165 rooms, and each and all of them contain water, gas and a telephone which cannot be said of any other hotel on the Pacific coast." That was in 1871; the hotel was erected in 1870.

Gas was available, but the incandescent electric light was not invented. Billy Thimara was agent of the Western Union, and he was anxious to have more phones installed, in order to facilitate the sending of telegraph dispatches.

He never dreamed of extensions of telephone lines for any other purpose. When the people began to use them to talk to one another, he was surprised, but not alarmed. He thought it was a fad, like the first buzz wagon. Do you remember?

In the early nineties there was a great anxiety to increase the number of telephones. Central was then in the drug store, where the U. S. National bank is now. One "hello" girl was in full charge. She was Miss Alice M. Steiner, now Mrs. Milton L. Meyers, then and now a fine woman, well known for her good looks. (The writer will make an affidavit to bind this fact, if called upon to do so.)

She put on a campaign to increase the number of telephones in Salem to 50, and The Statesman management, in a noble effort, had been successful, went over the 50 mark, mostly owing to the popularity and hard work of Miss Steiner.

The number grew and grew. It never stopped growing, except for a little time during the late lamented depression. It was up just over the 7000 mark once. Then it fell off, owing to the aforementioned depression.

Now the telephone company management is getting out a new directory, and it shows a gain of about 700 since the last directory was printed, about a year ago.

There is every indication that this growth will go on, and perhaps at an increasing pace—and that, most any day now, an all time high will be reached. That is, instead of rallying around the 7000 mark, as it is doing now, it will definitely pass that point, and soon be so far beyond it as to make the present spurt a pleasant memory.

Manager Harry V. Collins of the Salem office says there is a concerted effort on the part of every member of his force to pass the 7000 mark and get so far beyond it, right soon, as to make that number look small. How? By giving the public the best possible service in every conceivable way. Here's hoping, and trusting, too.

There is another outstanding one among many indications and barometers of Salem's steady growth, and sure warrant guaranteeing an indefinite continuation. That is, the growth of the Salem postoffice.

It isn't a very long time since a postmaster and two or three assistants did all the work of the Salem postoffice, when it was located in rented quarters, with an occasional removal to put on such airs! This town wouldn't be big enough for that in a hundred years!

Thomas H. Tongue began his service in congress in 1897, and was there four years. He at once set about to get Salem a postoffice building. This was the largest city in his district.

He succeeded. The people of Salem put up the money to buy the site from the Wilson heirs, the government demanding that this be done. That block was not then a block—was merely the west end of Willson avenue, and Cottage street was not opened through.

April 1, 1901, the Salem postoffice was moved into its own building—no, not its own, but the government building. The treasury department owns government buildings, and has the custodial care of them.

The total receipts of the Salem postoffice that year amounted to \$23,819.

## Is Auntie Stretching Her Visit Into a Permanent Stay?



## On the Record

By DOROTHY THOMPSON

Wanted: A Disarmament Conference

IN THE situation which has arisen in Michigan and is spreading throughout the country, there is a voice which we all wait to hear. That is the voice of the President of the United States. It cannot be said of the President that he has been slow, usually, to express himself on matters of fundamental policy. He has been hesitant to denounce where denouncing was due, or to act in an emergency. Yet, in this most serious emergency, one which affects thousands of workers and millions of property, one which threatens actual civil strife and is producing in the minds of the people a sense of panic, the President at all. Yet his is the voice in which millions of Americans have confidence; his is the leadership which a majority of the people have expressed their willingness to follow.

The Secretary of Labor, to be sure, has said "it is not yet established whether the sit-down strike is legal." Mr. Homer Martin, leading the Detroit sit-down, knows perfectly well it isn't. He doesn't go in for any chicanery. The issue isn't legally but whether the workers have a right to a better standard of living and improved conditions." Anyhow, there isn't an argument. The Michigan courts have ruled in his favor. The agency for all employees, under certain fixed conditions—and then vaguely give the Labor Relations board power to change the rules if it wants to. Reading the act, it seems that the board has power to collect fines, make rules, and make rulings subject only to appeal later. But the legal advisers of the board say it does not. It sets up no procedures for averting strikes, no procedures which must be exhausted before a strike can be called. It does not establish who has the right to establish or place any limitations upon the methods that can be used, and, while under it a majority, and possibly a minority, can compel all the workers to bargain only through their union, there are no provisions for the democratic control of the union itself, or are its funds or disbursements subject to public scrutiny. There is no protection provided for the rights of minorities.

Incidentally, Mr. Martin's argument about majority rights vs. proportional representation, as set forth in his open letter to the governor Monday, and his analogy with the American political system, were plain idiotic. The analogy would be correct if President Roosevelt dissolved the republic and sent the republican congressmen home from Washington!

The Wagner Labor Relations act is a mess, and if the supreme court does not throw it out—it is our guess that it will throw some of it out, but its applicability—congress should do so, and draft another law of more precise meaning, better covering the problem.

But the Michigan situation cannot wait in any way. It is any law drawn up to meet a specific insurrectional situation be satisfactory in the long run. This situation demands action in an entirely different atmosphere than at present exists, when illegality is being practically practiced, law is demonstrating its impotence or unwillingness to act, workers are being given instructions by films in insurrectional tactics and warning the state that they will resist it with violence.

In this moment there is one person who has the power to alleviate a tension which may grow to the point where any kind of law will be completely futile. That person is the President. He is in that position because of the leadership he has asserted in the past, and because it is in pursuit of policies which labor claims to be his, that we have reached the state we are in.

It is said that the President is thinking of calling an international disarmament conference. We beg him to call a national economic disarmament conference, and call it right now, a conference of the leaders of industry and of labor, who must together work out a program acceptable to both, if we are to be governed by reason instead of force.

How long, oh Cattlines, Cattlines of the right and Cattlines of the left, will you abuse our patience? Copyright, 1937, New York Tribune, Inc.

## The Safety Valve

Letters from Statesman Readers

PRESSURE ON WORKERS

To the Editor: O yes the WPA is not in politics, it is very noticeable when Mr. Harry Hopkins had his speech printed by government expense and sent to every WPA worker in Oregon and all over the United States, just trying to bring pressure to bear on the workers, for our president's plan to pack the supreme court which is not necessary at this time, also placing unnecessary expense on the taxpayers of around \$120,000 more. Just to have his own way, it is a far-reaching effect on the country. Just merely placing more judges.

As far as his speech was concerned it was just one-sided; Mr. Hopkins was judging the nine honorable judges and weighing them in the balance, placing his wisdom above theirs. To my mind or way of thinking our president wants to revive the NRA in some form and control private life again. Most WPA workers are agreed that if the work should stop we would be nearly where we were only with a larger debt placed on our shoulders. C. D. SCHELLENBERGER.

## Veterans' Graves Bill Title Asked

Preliminary Petition Goes in For Initiative of Commission Plan

Preliminary petition to initiate HB 135, proposing creation of a commission to locate, clear and mark graves of soldiers, sailors and marines who served the United States in any wars, were filed Wednesday with the secretary of state. This petition seeking ballot title for the measure, which never came out of committee hands during the legislature, was signed by officers of a number of Salem patriotic societies.

The signatures were made by them as individuals, rather than in their official capacity. Signers were: Bertha Ray, Women's Relief corps; Mabel L. Tragilo, Ladies of the G. A. R.; Mrs. Mary A. Geer, D.A.R.; Mrs. Elizabeth A. Waters, American War Mothers; Mrs. Mary B. Lickel, department president, auxiliary of Sons of Veterans; H. R. McWhorter and Eugene T. Frost, members Sons of Veterans; Hattie B. Cameron, Marion county Veterans' association; William Bilven, president Federated Patriotic societies; George Averitt, commander Capital Post No. 9, American Legion; Lester Long, commander Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Leaders in the referendum expect to obtain 30,000 signatures over the state, though it is necessary to have but 20,020 names on the completed petitions to get the title on the ballot.

## Kills Friend

Angered by his best friend's profession of love for his nine-year-old daughter, Andrew Hoagland, 35, killed Edward Kraftheffer, 35, with a blow of his fist during a fight in the Hoagland home in Chicago.



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## 200 Expected For Older Boys' Meet

Conference Opens Today; More Men Needed For Hosts Saturday

This afternoon will see 300 boys registering at the Y. M. C. A. for the 17th annual Older Boys' conference meeting here today and tomorrow. In addition to many local lads, it is estimated that 150 are coming from other points in Polk and Marion counties.

After a conference of the leaders at 5:30 at the Y. M. C. A. the annual banquet at 6:30 p. m. will take place at the First Presbyterian church. The principal speaker will be Dean U. G. Dubach of Oregon State college who will give an address on the orient under the title "Something More." Other speakers include W. S. Chambers, Henry Richter, Douglas Chambers, president of the H-Y club; Tom Hill, hospital chairman, and Fred Wolf, principal of Salem high school. Invocation will be led by Rev. G. C. Birtchett, while Dwight Adams, coach at Dallas high school, will act as toastmaster. President Bob Woodman of Dallas will preside, and various musical numbers are included on the program in addition to the talks.

The number of business men of the city who have signed up to entertain boys at luncheon tomorrow noon is still inadequate to the demand. Those wishing to entertain individual boys are requested to notify the Y. M. C. A. today.

After the early Easter sunrise services at 5:30 a. m. at Christ Lutheran church, the Luther league of the church will serve an Easter breakfast to the members of the church.

All the arrangements and the serving will be in charge of the members of the Luther league assisted by Mrs. Gus Neitz in charge of the dining room and Mrs. Alfred Propp, Mrs. P. Blundell, and Mrs. A. Zamroz in charge of the kitchen.

The services at 7:30 o'clock will be devoted to a program by the Sunday school in charge of Mrs. Amos E. Minnemann.

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## Two Transferred Convicts Return

Governor Martin expressed disappointment Thursday over his experience in transferring first-term youthful prisoners from the state penitentiary to the state training school for boys at Woodburn.

Investigations of 66 youthful penitentiary prisoners, all under 20 years of age, were conducted by the state parole board, Warden Lewis and the governor. Nine were selected for transfer to the training school and later were interviewed personally by the governor and his private secretary.

Of the nine transferred to the school two already have been returned to the penitentiary, the governor said.

"I think the public should have some idea of the character of the young men under penitentiary sentence," Governor Martin declared. "They are not the good boys some people would have you believe."

## Not All Salaries Restored, Report

Adjustment of salaries of state employees following expiration of the salary reduction law March 1, is under the direction of state department heads, subject to approval of the state budget department, officials explained Thursday.

The salary reduction law was enacted by the 1933 legislature and the saving to the state during the last biennium was estimated at \$500,000.

"It is not likely that the salaries of all state employees will be restored to their original base," Carl Cover, assistant state budget director, said. "Those who are entitled to increases will receive them. Others will have to wait until they have proved themselves worthy of recognition."

Cover said the impression had gained heading up all of the base salaries would be restored. Salaries increased under the restoration program will be retroactive as of March 1.

## Radio Programs

7:00—First Nighter, drama.  
7:15—Variety show.  
8:00—Amos 'n' Andy, comedy.  
8:15—Uncle Ezra, comedy.  
8:25—The Story Court, drama.  
9:30—Eddie Kline, 10—News.  
9:35—Southern Harmony Four.  
10:30—Hopkins arch.  
11:00—Ambassador arch.  
11:30—Kent arch. To 12—Weather.

8:30—Klick.  
8:45—Kingsley Fl. 8:30—News.  
8:45—Songs of Pioneers.  
9:00—The Story Court, drama.  
9:30—Romance of Helen Trent, serial.  
9:45—Rich Man's Darling, serial.  
10:00—Betty and Bob, serial.  
10:30—Betty Crocker.  
10:35—Church hymns.  
10:45—Who's in the news.  
11:00—Big Sister.  
11:45—Myra and Marza.  
12:00—Dixie arch.  
1:00—Choir and orchestra.  
1:15—Home institute. 1:30—News.  
2:00—The Romance of a Woman's Eyes.  
2:00—Westera home.  
4:00—Newlyweds. 4:15—Variety.  
5:00—Broadway variety.  
5:45—Topi savas.  
6:00—Hollywood Hotel: "A Marked Woman."  
7:00—Moments You Never Forget.  
7:30—Musical moments.  
8:00—Scattergood Baines.  
8:15—Pretty Kitty Kelly, serial.  
8:30—Follow me. 8—Drama, organ.  
9:15—Lombards arch.  
9:30—Hallett arch.  
9:35—Hallett arch.  
10:30—Oliver arch.  
10:45—Pia-Rita arch. 11—Allen arch.  
11:30—see arch.  
11:45—Tucker arch.

7:00—Morning melodies (ET).  
7:30—Pettie musicale (ET).  
8:00—Church concert.  
9:15—Mary Marlin serial.  
9:30—How to Be Charming.  
9:45—Fenton in the Headlines.  
10:00—Benny Walker's Kitchen.  
10:15—Mrs. Wiggs of Cabbage Patch.  
10:30—The Great War, drama.  
10:45—Just Plain Bill, drama.  
11:30—News.  
11:45—Hollywood in Person.  
11:50—Pepper Young's Family, drama.  
12:15—Ma Perkins, comedy.  
12:30—Little concert.  
1:00—Follow me.  
1:45—Guiding Light, drama.  
2:00—Hollywood news.  
2:05—Church concert.  
2:15—Helen Jane Behlke, sing.  
2:30—Singin' Sam. 2:45—Clinic.  
2:45—The New World, drama.  
3:15—Magazine, varied.  
4:00—Bank, Best Driver.  
4:30—Mrs. C. Hill, commentator.  
4:45—Invisible Trail (ET).  
5:45—Meadin's music.  
6:00—Dinner concert.  
6:30—Twin stars.

8:00—The Homesteaders' War.  
8:15—Weather Forecast.  
8:30—Story Hour for Adults.  
8:45—School of the Air.  
9:00—News.  
9:15—Farm Hour.  
9:30—Variety.  
9:45—Quarantine Your Health.  
10:00—Men of Vision.  
10:30—Travel Recollections—A. R. Hoag.  
10:45—The Symphonic Hour.  
11:00—Stories for Boys and Girls.  
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