

The Oregon Statesman

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

CHARLES A. SPRAGUE - Editor and Publisher

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Grazing Land Leases

F. R. Carpenter, chief administrator of the Taylor grazing act for the department of the interior, made a fine impression before the company gathered for a land board hearing on the grazing land exchange. He not only speaks with a delightful felicity, he shows a comprehensive knowledge of his subject, both in the history of grazing lands in this and other countries and in the practical use of them as a stockman. The point he emphasized is one previously touched on in this paper: the need for study of the lands and the improving of the range to the end that it can sustain more livestock, thus increasing returns to the stockmen as lessee and to the state as landlord.

He condemned letting lands by competitive bidding, and favored leasing on a long-term basis in which the lessee would feel obligated to conserve the grass for future years, and not try to graze it to dry powder in one season. It is clear to me that he favors the stockman's viewpoint, that the lands should be clustered around existing set-ups, and that the "pattern" of range life should be altered as little as possible. The school people who have been anxious to salvage all they could out of the remaining heritage for the schools, seemed satisfied with Carpenter's presentation of the subject.

The land board is planning a land exchange for the south part of Malheur county. It was supposed this was on a one-year experimental basis, but it developed after the general meeting that the leases would be on a ten-year term if the exchange is made, with the rental put at three cents an acre. The school group asked for a ten-day delay for study of the leases, favoring a one-year experiment only at this time.

The problems are eminently practical. The stockmen are the only ones who can use the land; but they should not be the ones to dictate all the terms. The state is landlord, a trustee for the school fund. The land board should act like a sensible landlord, getting as much as it can for the schools, but remembering that the tenant must enjoy reasonable prosperity or the land suffers. The problem continues after the lands are leased, becoming then administrative, guarding against over-grazing, cooperation for control of rodents and weeds, and developing pasturage and water. The alertness of interested citizens is already showing good results for the rentals are coming from a fraction of a cent to three cents.

Capitol Shower Baths

The governor will have to get along without a shower bath in his suite of offices in the new capitol. The secretary of state and treasurer have offices equipped with this modern device. The governor should have one, because he gets most of the mud which is slung in state politics. Sometimes he throws a handful himself, but a washbowl would suffice for cleaning his hands. A shower bath does a more complete job. Sometimes irate committees would like to throw the governor in and turn on the cold water; again they might prefer to turn the hot water valve and give him a good scalding. Perhaps the present governor realizes the risk and refused to allow a shower bath to be installed in his quarters.

It is recalled that the old capitol was seriously deficient in its plumbing for the gubernatorial offices. Governors came and went and up to the time of Julius Meier they had to patronize the common washroom with the office clerks, the lobbyists and the legislators. Meier moved the carpenters and plumbers in, or attempted to, before he took over office to install what are euphemistically termed modern conveniences. But even he didn't think about a shower bath. Some future reformer can come in and revise the plumbing in the governor's offices.

The governor will not be a neglected man in the new capitol however. He has a private elevator (so have senators and representatives) to whisk him up to his offices. He has several hideouts which should enable him to give reporters and constituents the run-around if he so desires. One of them would serve for a shower if a change proves necessary. At least, it is not anticipated that any governor will resign out of jealousy because his offices have no shower bath while his fellow members of the board of control do have. In emergency they might loan him the key.

Gas Company Service

The break in the gas main serving the Willamette valley caused probably more loss and inconvenience to the company than to the patrons. Customers had low pressure or no gas at all for a few hours, but by morning the supply was restored. The company called out all hands to inform customers of the trouble, shut off all open valves, and protect them from damage or from possible asphyxiation when the service was resumed. It was expensive to the company, but the officers did not hesitate at that.

The break, not due in any way to the negligence of the company or its employees, was the first major break in the service to this valley, and only the second in the 78 years of operation of the gas company. That is a splendid record; and the patrons appreciate it as well as the prompt and thorough work in meeting the emergency caused by this break.

This is a good time and place to remark that the Portland Gas & Coke company is one of the most efficiently operated plants in the United States. It is a pioneer in research both in the methods of manufacturing gas and in the recovery of by-products from the manufacture. This efficiency and this utilization of previously wasted products have enabled the company to compete successfully with oil and electricity. Utility companies are accustomed to a lot of abuse. We want to pin a rose on the gas company before some candidate belays it with a handspike.

Lewis and the Communal Form

John L. Lewis carries quite a grouch these days. His CIO crowd is making little headway, with conditions as they are. He says in an interview:

"I cannot say what may happen, but I do know that some people found that they could live happily and successfully under a communal form in which the whole and not just a few were given consideration."

He is about the only person in the country, of any prominence, who has made such a discovery. Where is the country? It is a very limited "some people" who live happily in soviet Russia, the only nominally communist state. The old bolsheviks have been taken out and shot, and the second stringers do not know when their turn will come.

Lewis is not without his share of responsibility for the so-called recession because of his countenancing of sitdowns and other lawless means of winning victories for his side. He has never before flirted with communism; maybe some of the doctrine has rubbed off on him from association with some of his CIO organizers.

That accident over on the Salmon river which claimed four or five lives was queer. Queer in this way: that a party of that many men could be dead for a week and not be missed. Usually one person missing for a night starts an alarm and a search. No one seemed disturbed because this Salmon river party didn't show up for a whole week. They might as well have been goats turned out in the hills.

The difference between an editor and a farmer is that an editor is supposed to know everything and a farmer is supposed to be able to do everything.

Bits for Breakfast

By R. J. HENDRICKS

Jason Lee 100 years ago getting ready for trip that brought about the founding of this city:

(Continuing from yesterday.) The Brosnan book tells that Lee was an interested observer of all the operations connected with the Whitman mission, and finding that the fur trading party which was to accompany him across the Snake country would not be able to start immediately, he continued on to the Lapwai mission, near the present Lewiston, Idaho, where he was the guest of Rev. H. H. Spalding and wife from April 18 to 23.

Returning to the Whitman mission for another visit on May 2, he started on his long Oregon Trail journey May 12. On April 25, 1838, Jason Lee wrote a letter to Daniel Lee, parts of which follow:

"The Yellow Serpent is to leave for the Willamette tomorrow and I hasten to drop you a line." (The other name for Yellow Serpent was Peopemoxmox, and this famous Cayuse chief was no doubt on his way to visit his son, whom the whites had named Eljah, who was a student in the school at the Lee mission—the "old mission" below the site of Salem. Peopemoxmox had been there before; at least once, when, in 1825, he brought his son to the school.)

No doubt Peopemoxmox was to carry the letter to the mission at the Dalles (then called Wascopam), where he was a familiar figure. Jason Lee went on:

"I visited Mr. Whitman and Mr. Spalding and find them getting along well with the Indians. Both are instructing the Indians in the Nez Perce language. Mrs. S. has made a small book in the language, printed it with a pen, and the children have made several copies which they sing very well. The Indians have acquired a good deal of Scripture knowledge. I asked them a good many questions through M. S., most of which they answered very readily.

"They expressed a great deal of joy at seeing me, and several made very sensible speeches, and all seemed very anxious to be taught."

"But still he has his troubles with them, the truth is they are Indians; though they are certainly superior to those upon the Willamette, and I think his things are as much exposed as they can be, they steal nothing from him. Both the Klose (Cayuse) and the Nez Perce are doing a great deal in cultivation, the former with wooden plows with a little bit of iron called upon them, and the latter with hoes alone. Some of the Nez Perce came to the Doctor's (Whitman's) for potatoes to plant a distance of 200 miles. I was astonished to see the industry of these people, and I think the more from the effects of my ride yesterday, as you may well suppose when you know that I rode at least 75 miles between sun and sun. . . . Do all you can to encourage your people to cultivate, and give them seed as much as possible."

"And as you have a goodly number of adults I hope you will lose no time in acquiring their language, for without this you can do little good to the adult population, but when you can speak one language well you can by means of interpretation generally communicate with all who come for salmon."

Mr. Lee underscored (italicized) Indians, when he said "the truth is they are Indians; though they are certainly superior to those upon the Willamette."

The Willamette (upper Willamette) or Calapooia Indians found here by the first white comers were low in culture. They had no houses or fixed places of abode, for the most part; lived under trees, and had little clothing. The lower Willamette (Multnomah) tribes were higher in culture; made themselves large, rude houses, out of split timbers and bark, fashioned and propelled boats like true craftsmen and competent sailors.

The Nez Perce Indians were among the finest types on the American continent, and the lower Nez Perce have been friendly to the whites from the beginning.

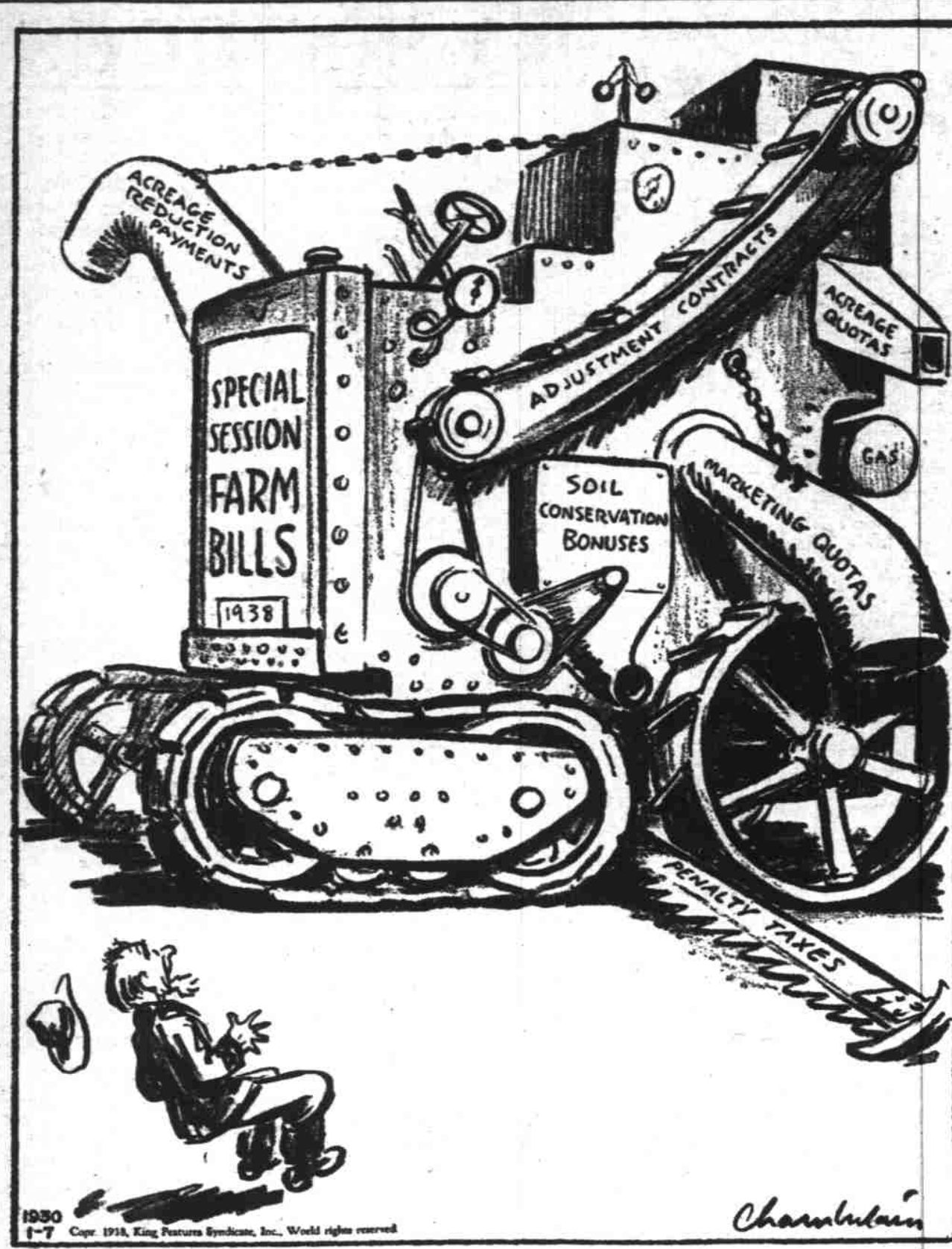
Like Chief Twistedhair, who took care of the horses of Lewis and Clark during the winter of 1805-6, and his son, the first law-abiding and good citizen of Governor Stevens of Washington and his party at the great peace convention at Walla Walla; and his son, Rev. Lawyer, first pastor of the Indian church at Lapwai, which church is still going strong, and Rev. Lawyer's son.

His daughter, Mylie Lawyer, great great granddaughter of Chief Twistedhair and great granddaughter of the original Chief Lawyer, is a graduate of Willamette university. She is now in government service, teaching at Warm Springs reservation, and a mutual friend tells the writer, making a splendid record.

Prof. Brosnan in his book, page 34, in telling of the incidents passing under review in this column, wrote: "Before leaving this area (meaning the country beyond the Cascades in 1838), Jason Lee wrote Daniel Lee a revealing personal letter (the one being discussed.) In this note, which gives a frank and unguarded account of his observations at the Whitman and Spalding stations, it is very clear that Jason Lee, as early as 1838, entertained no illusions with reference to the probability of elevating the red men of the Far West."

Brosnan is both right and wrong, in his inference. Lee did believe good could be accomplished by Christianizing and civilizing the Indians, and was at

Gosh-All-Hemlock!



Sage of Salem Speculates

By D. H. TALMADGE

REMINISCENT RHYMES
Percy Flick, a trail lad who lives on a ranch, Over yonder somewhere in the hills,

Came down to town on a bus 't'other day, To get for his father some pills. And a tough-looking guy he passed on the street:

Made fun of the timid young Flick, "Hi, boys," said the guy to his cronies about, "Give a good look at the hick!" And he said other things, and Percy got mad,

And at the tough guy he took a poke, And they sparred back and forth a minute or two, So ill-matched 'twas really a joke.

And it was a joke, and as well a surprise— The tough guy went out like a lamp, From a sock on the chin. The papers next day

Said he was the middleweight champ!

The reader, who is arranging plans looking to meeting the various trials and vicissitudes which the new year may bring, may conjecture for himself the result of the altercation between Percy Flick and the tough guy, mentioned in the foregoing, had Percy

been aware of the tough guy's identity. The result of the altercation would appear to prove something or other.

Something of typewriter ribbons— It may be you've noticed it, too— Age and disuse wrecks them faster

Than doing the work they should do. Other things, too, may be mentioned, Including the creature called man, Who may fade out ere he wears out,

Through thinking he can't when he can.

Still, of course, there are men who prefer, for one reason or another, to think they can't, and possibly what they would do, even though it were proved that they could do what they thought they could not do, would not amount to much.

I listened to a man, not long ago, deliver a homily. At I know what a homily is, and I have somehow gathered an impression that it is a sermon, or partakes somewhat of the nature of a sermon. This man said, and when he said it his air of conviction was very pronounced, that every tub should stand on its own bottom. Many a failure in life, he said, results from not getting out from under the influence of other and greater personalities and interests. Consider, said he, the delicate plant which has to create a blossom because it is in the shade of other and greater plants. I reckon there is something in what he says. But I recall a plant I once transferred, at the behest of the lady of the house, because it was not doing well at all. She said the spot where it was rooted was too shady. So, as I say, I transferred it to a spot in the sunshine, and got a set of mighty dirty fingerprints in the doing of it, too. I went to the garden a day or two later, my heart filled with glad anticipation. After all, I know, it does give a man a pleasant sensation somewhere on his inside to do a good deed, even though it be for only a plant. Imagine, then, the shock of sorrow that resulted when, upon reaching the spot, I found only a wilted and dying plant. Sunstroke, I reckon. The lady of the house and I did not carry our ministrations to sufficient lengths. We should have held an umbrella over the plant until it had become inured to its new environment.

Yes, I reckon it was all right enough for the young man to make a longer visit than usual, considering that it was New Year's eve and all, but do you think it was perfectly right for him to carry away her father's morning paper when he went home?

Winter's coolness comes with the sunshine, Its warmness comes with the rain;

Both are all right; in fact, both are fine—

Turn on the heat, or open the drain.

One of the finest things I know

of amongst the small affairs pertaining to behavior is a case of good manners which wants to be bad manners but it strong enough to continue good manners.

A card from Zolzie Volchok, dated December 23, comes to this desk. Zolzie spent Christmas week at the Hotel New Yorker, New York City. What a boy!

Two old friends, Lynn Mayberry and Sammy White, were on Al Adolph's State theatre bill of vaudeville for the New Year week-end. Miss Mayberry is now billed "Mistress of Mirth," which she is when conditions are favorable, by which I mean merely that she lives up to her billing when she isn't handicapped by a "cold" audience, which happens at times to all stage performers. However, it did not happen to her this week-end. An all right bill. Followed Sunday by the Sonja Henie "Thin Ice" film and big audiences.

Detroit Men on Michigan Jaunt

DETROIT—This little town is enjoying wonderful weather lately in contrast to a foot of snow which fell during Christmas.

Roy Newport has returned to his business here after several days spent in Portland with Mrs. Newport, who is there for the winter.

Bill Shepherd and Major Baughn are expected home this week from Pontiac, Mich., where they went to drive back some new trucks.

Tom Fryer damaged his car recently in a wreck. Mrs. Fryer and two children were hurt in the accident.

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On the Record

By DOROTHY THOMPSON

Elementary Capitalist Economics
In commenting upon the President's message to congress, this column is embarrassed by the dilemma caused by desire to be reassured by the good temper of the address, and disappointment at that—from our point of view—it evaded the only question worth discussing at this moment in the message.

Dorothy Thompson to congress, namely the industrial depression. In fifty minutes of eloquence, at the top of his form, ending with a new campaign slogan for 1938: "ple down," the president chose to ignore essential facts. Instead he reopened a special session as a flop just before Christmas.

The fact that the president did not bark, and said kind words about the majority of "good" business as contrasted with the minority of "bad" business cannot cloak the fact that he again, in a perfectly clear manner, presented the theory that the present depression in the United States, with its rapidly mounting unemployment, is due to specified business crimes, and to a deficiency in purchasing power on the part of farmers and industrial workers. It is with this fundamental analysis that the column agrees. The depression is not due to these causes, and therefore the means proposed by the president to overcome it, based on his analysis, will, we think, fail.

We are presuming, on the basis of the president's speech, that we intend to continue to live under the capitalist system, however it may be humanized. That means that we are to continue under a system in which industry, agriculture and commerce operate under private enterprise for profit. We are not talking about big profits. We are merely talking about a system of private enterprise, the object of which is to keep the figures balanced on the black side of the books, instead of on the red side. That system has certain laws. And that a system is breaking down, because its laws are being violated.

We are also not discussing whether it is a good system or a bad system, or the best of all possible systems. We are only accepting the premise of the system, that we intend to maintain the system, and not substitute for it the government-controlled state capitalism of fascism, or the government-controlled state capitalism of Russian communism, or democratically controlled socialism, which remains the dream of many people but has nowhere yet become a reality. And certainly neither the president, nor his advisers, nor the United States congress, nor the people of the United States at the ballot-box have ever announced that they will radically to change the system.

Therefore the paramount question in the United States is whether the analysis by the president and his advisers of the existing situation is or is not correct, inside the framework of the system under which we live. If it is not correct, and we are going to go ahead on the basis of a false evaluation of causes; if this false evaluation is to be based on the premise of government propaganda, addressing themselves to a confused and unhappy public; if the legislation framed by the congress about it is based on this evaluation; if the results are the inevitable results of action pyramided upon a false premise—then we are going to be in a very bad way.

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