

# The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"  
From First Statesman, March 28, 1851

CHARLES A. SPRAGUE Editor and Publisher

THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING CO.

Charles A. Sprague, Pres. Sheldon F. Sackett, Secy.  
Member of the Associated Press  
The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to the use for publication of all news dispatches credited to it or not otherwise credited in this paper.

## Water Commission

The people of Salem voted several years ago to enter the public ownership field in connection with the water utility, and proceeded to purchase the existing water service and to install a new supply system. That system is now completed and operating and to date, extensive improvements have been made upon the distribution system.

The Statesman gave strong support to the municipal ownership issue at the time that it was before the voters of Salem. At the same time, this newspaper realized then and realizes now that there is an inescapable danger inseparable from public ownership—the danger that business principles may be beclouded by politics. It was this newspaper's conclusion that the benefits of public ownership in this particular case overshadowed that danger.

On Friday the voters ballot upon three candidates for two positions on the water commission. The candidates are E. B. Gabriel, present chairman; Van Wieder, who was on the city council when the water program was being carried out; and William Bliven, local insurance man. The ballot slogans of these three men are significant. Gabriel and Wieder favor reducing water rates when it becomes economically safe to do so. Bliven favors reducing water rates.

The prospect of lower water rates is attractive. But in the field of municipal ownership, the experience of the Tacoma power utility is always cited as a shining example. Tacoma has low power rates. Why? Because sound business judgment was exercised through the years, and Tacoma now owns its power utility, debt free or nearly so.

Salem has a water system, but owes \$2,200,000 on it. Not one nickel has yet been paid on the principal. The water commission has set up sinking funds and otherwise made preparation for taking care of this debt as it matures. It has worked out a program based upon the earnings that are presumably assured. This program provides a "cushion" varying from \$59,000 down to \$32,000 in different years, to be expended for improvements in the system if all goes well—to provide a margin of safety if revenues decrease.

The "tough" years for the water system will begin in 1940, when payments on the principal begin. The critical year will be 1942, when \$181,017 must be paid out in principal and interest. The program provides for that payment. As principal payments continue, interest will drop. The critical point will be past within a few years, and there will come a time when rates may safely be reduced. That time will come sooner if Salem continues to grow rapidly, although that growth will perpetuate the need for further investment in distribution facilities.

E. B. Gabriel and Van Wieder are committed to the far-seeing financial program which the commission has established. William Bliven is a reputable, well-intentioned citizen. His pledge to reduce water rates, regardless of other considerations, disqualifies him, in The Statesman's opinion, from the consideration of voters who want to maintain sound business management of the water utility.

The water system belongs to the people. It is being paid for out of earnings, but the property owners of Salem stand behind the bonds that were issued to purchase and build it. Whether rates are lowered soon or late, the system belongs to the people and they will get the full benefit of the investment.

The question of geographical distribution of the commission members has been raised. There is no manner in which any commissioner may take action to benefit one portion of the city to the detriment of another. Service is being extended to all prospective users under uniform rules. The part of Salem in which members of or candidates for the commission may happen to live, has nothing to do with their fitness.

## Industry at Bonneville

Portland interests rushed into print immediately following publication of the proposed Bonneville power rates, with a declaration that those rates were substantially higher with respect to industries to be located near the dam, than the federal engineers had suggested, and too high to attract the industries they had hoped to obtain. At the same time various experts voiced the opinion that the transmission line "postage stamp" rates were such that no great saving might be expected by domestic users throughout the state, until volume of electricity used was greatly increased.

Nevertheless activity looking toward establishment of large industries utilizing Oregon products is going ahead. The state department of geology and mineral industries is looking into the feasibility of an iron and steel operation, and reports that all the necessary raw materials are available in such convenient locations that such a plant could operate advantageously in view of the heavy freight charges on steel shipments from the east.

Other ideas entertained by the department include allied ferro-alloy and other metallurgical industries, an electrolytic zinc plant and development of the state's extensive quick-silver properties. A report the department issued recently on this subject has stimulated widespread interest in this possibility.

Administrator J. D. Ross of Bonneville says in his latest bulletin, apparently in answer to the Portland complaint but without reference to it, that the rates now proposed are not "final" but rather the peak rates, to be reduced as later units are installed and as volume of utilization increases. The bulletin also says that secondary power may be utilized at a saving by the industries to be located near the dam, and also the low cost surplus power to some extent.

## Revolt in Brazil

The fact that the Brazil revolt, responsibility for which is being tied up more and more definitely with German nazis, happened to be quelled in short order is not especially reassuring. A similar revolt was suppressed in Germany in 1923 with equal facility. Ten years later one of the leaders of that revolt became premier of Germany. Now he is the world's No. 1 war menace.

Brazil was already a dictatorship—but there are several varieties of dictatorships. Most of Central America and South America already is ruled by dictators, but they simply rule by military strength and leave their "subjects" considerable freedom so long as they do not rebel. The nazis saw in Brazil what appeared to be a trend toward their political philosophy and decided to move in. Rebuffed, they tried conquest. That failed too, but now the Western Hemisphere knows that the fascists definitely have their eyes turned in this direction.

One of the penalties of seeking higher honors: Saldie Orr Dunbar manages to get her first name spelled correctly in most Oregon newspapers but now that she's in the national spotlight as next president of the General Federation of Woman's clubs, the problem is multiplied by 48.

The courts are apparently getting around to doing something about Harlan county, Kentucky. If the Wagner act provided the impetus for that, it may be balanced against some of the less beneficial results of that much-debated law.

The heat of the political campaign has "gotten" one of the state's news reporters. He wrote "democrated" when he meant "decorated."

Yes, Oswald, the whispering campaign season is now on.

## Sage of Salem Speculates

By D. H. TALMADGE

### A TIME FOR PRAYER

By CAROLINE COX

This is a time for prayer—Brother against brother strives, And nation against nation huris its bitter hate, while women weep

And little children cry for bread. Men stand aghast and sanderling At horror of the hour, and none Can tell its grave portent; the while The world on its foundation rocks.

It is a time for prayer. 3819 N. E. Wasco, Portland, Ore.

### Mark Twain and Hollywood

The hundreds of thousands of boys between the ages of 16 and 60 who read and reread "Tom Sawyer" back in the '80's will find, I reckon, when they see the film which Mr. Selznick has produced in technicolor with a fine cast of actors that the Mark Twain flavor and the atmosphere with which he imbued the story are not there. Even the "find" of a boy in the Bronx who is "marvelously adapted" to the Tom Sawyer character has not helped much in the way of creating the atmosphere which pervaded the story. It is just another "smash hit" in the long line of "smash hits." It is reasonably enjoyable as a play. Adults will like it as well as children, probably better. It seems likely that Hollywood and the spirit of Mark Twain will never become very well acquainted.

### The Bass Drum and Weather

It now appears that a real reason for the encouragement of these folks who have been telling around that it ain't never going to stop raining, they guess—newcomers for the most part from the middle west and from arid California where the rain falls only six or seven inches deep per shower. As a matter of fact, the older residents here have become somewhat annoyed by the persistency of the rainfall during the past season, but they are making no great fuss about it, because most of them do not care to waste time and strength bemoaning anything there is no help for. The Oregon climate does this to folks. I learned during a long period of helping promote civic spirit in small towns by beating a bass drum, more or less to the approval of the gentlemen who played the silver E-flat cornet, that a bass drum is an excellent weather indicator. When the weather is imminent, even while yet no cloud appears to warn the public that the azure sky is about to be retired temporarily from sight, the sheep-skin head of the drum becomes soggy and lifeless. The beats of the drummatic cease to be beats and become a species of bumps, much in its musical tone like the intinnabulation of a two-lane pine board. This I have noted during the past few days—both the drum of the Salvation Army and that of the orchestra at the State theatre have taken on a dry tone.

Every day brings its teller of sad tales of hard luck. However, it appears to me that these tales are becoming less painful in their nature than was the case two or three years ago. It may be the hard luck is becoming mellowed, or it may be the victims are simply losing their strength. It is difficult to tell about such things. Some of us wall because it is our nature to wall, and others do not wall because it is our nature not to wall. That is about all there is to it. But when a natural non-waller walls I have noticed that it usually is effective in one way or another.

Our famous sea breeze must be reckoned with. Better do your hot weathering while the hot weathering is good.

### Of Course Not!

Many a trout has risen To an artificial fly; Does the trout get his'n Even as you and I?

—PIX, Stayton.

### One evening recently I listened

to a March of Time feature which gave out some astounding figures relative to the number of missing persons reported every week in this country. I do not remember the figures. A fellow's retentiveness does not work well when he is astounded, and, of course, when the astoundingness passes it is too late. Many of us, I think, would get more from our radio sets if the sets would respond to an eager and courteous "huh?" But they won't. Us conversationalists have a rather hard time of it, taken all in all.

Every now and then I hear a person encore an act at a cinema variety performance. When I hear this person I know there is a real optimist in the house.

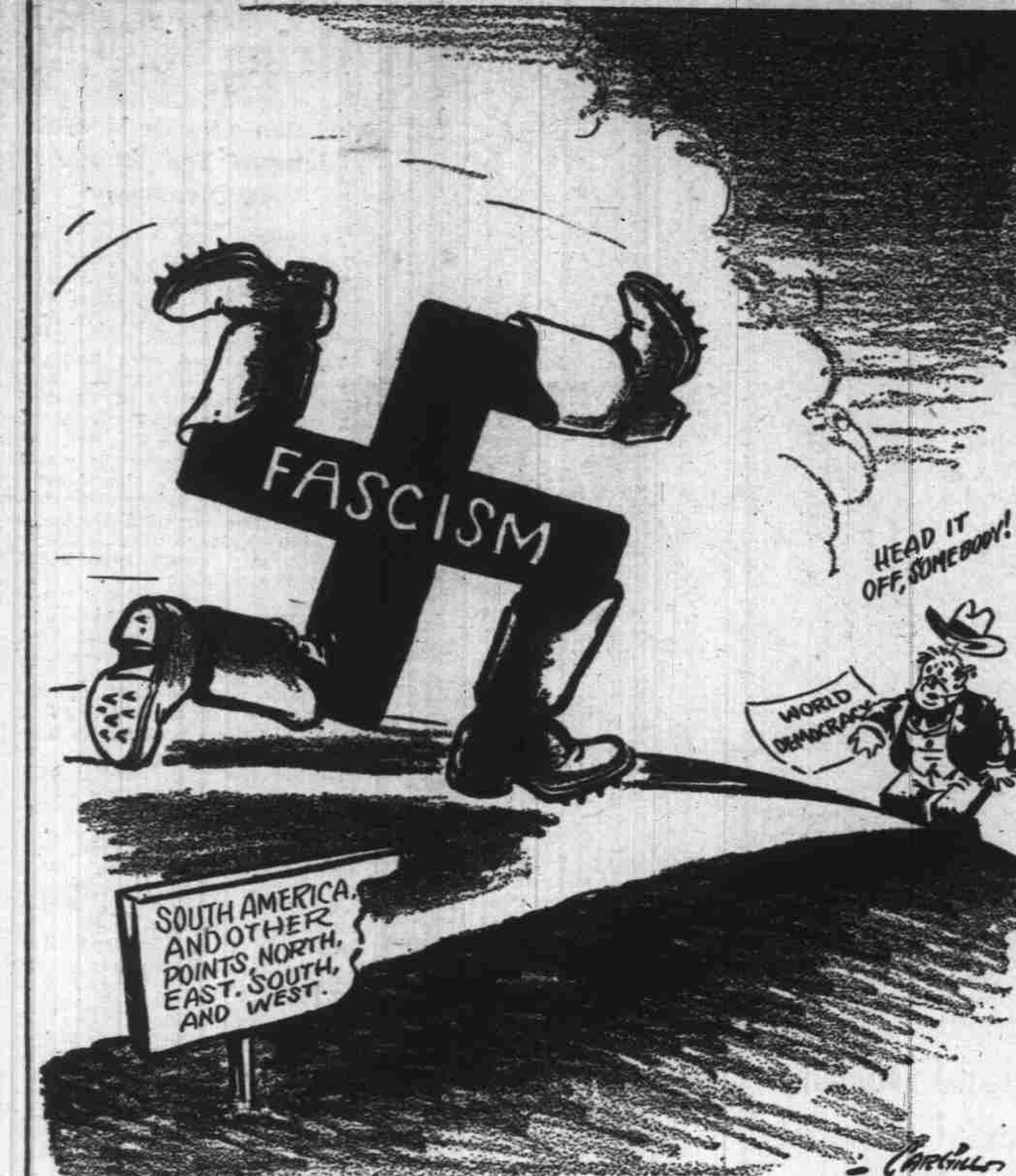
From a certain diary: Sunday, May 15, got up at 8 o'clock and put on summer underwear. At 4 p.m. took it off and resumed winter underwear. The sea breeze has a way of running out suddenly and unexpectedly and biting people.

Four upstanding young Englishmen clear the name and apprehend the murdered of their father, a British colonel in India. Such briefly put is the story of "Four Men and a Prayer," picture which has been shown at the Grand during the week. A venturesome American girl (Loretta Young), who is the daughter of the president of a munitions company, responsible for the dirty work is charmingly instrumental in working out the story. Mighty nice folks to meet, even in cinema.

### Cozel in Hospital

FAIRVIEW—Ray Cozel who underwent an appendicitis operation Monday at a Salem hospital reported recovering satisfactorily.

## Travel Season—1938



## The Safety Valve

Letters from Statesman Readers

### FAVORS LAUGHLIN

To the Editor: I wish to make a few remarks in reply to the letter in the Open Forum of the Capitol Journal by Mr. Le Garie, regarding his attitude and vote on pin balls, punch boards, etc. In that letter he plainly says that he has no apology to make for voting in favor of certain types of gambling and justifies his course on the grounds of the revenue brought into the city.

Personally, I want to see a man on the city council who is opposed to all kinds of gambling on moral grounds and who is interested in the protection of children and young people from such surroundings. Therefore, I am respecting Dr. S. E. Laughlin.

Respectfully yours, S. A. HUGHES.

## Maxie Leaves to Set up Quarters

NEW YORK, May 17—(AP)—Max Schmeling, who has been going to the movies and taking things easy, left for Speculator, N. Y., today to establish training quarters for his title fight with Joe Louis next month.

## Earth's Shadow Blots Out Moon



In its giddy whirl through space, the earth came between the sun and the moon recently—and the moon was blotted from the sky in total eclipse. The rare phenomenon in all its fascinating detail was visible to the naked eye over almost all North America. For fifty minutes the moon was in total eclipse, although the entire spectacle lasted slightly less than six hours. Shown above is a series of photos taken of the sky's big show. Lower is a diagram showing how the eclipse occurred.—LIN photo.

## VFW Poppy Sales To Start Today

Scarlet Flowers to Make Annual Appearance on Streets of Salem

By a vote of his classmates Hayes Beall was adjudged the member of the senior class of the senior high school to be recipient of Joseph H. Albert award.

Kenneth Litchfield, president elect of Willamette student body, will leave end of May for Missoula, Mont., to attend sessions of Pacific coast student presidents' association on University of Montana campus.

## Disabled Make Poses

The blossom is "artificial" because they are made by the disabled war veterans, who are invalidated in veterans' hospitals throughout the country and to whose relief and the relief of dependent widows and orphans of deceased veterans, and the support of the Veterans of Foreign Wars national home, the receipts from their sale throughout the land will be devoted. A small portion of the net receipts will be retained by the local units for the benefit of their respective relief funds.

## W. Salem Having Poppy Sale Also

Kingwood unit of American Legion auxiliary at West Salem will open its poppy sale today simultaneously with the organizations all over the country, according to Ida G. McClendon, an officer of the auxiliary.

## Chemeketas Plan Outing at Beach

The Chemeketas annual Memorial day outing will be held at Yachats this year. The scheduled activities for the two-and-one-half days, May 28, 29, and 30, will include organized evening recreation each night under the guidance of Burt Cray and Bob Wilson, a sea food dinner prepared by Lois Steink and staff, a hike down Cummins ridge to the ocean, and visits to the Cape Perpetua observatory, Devil's Churn, Sea Lion caves and Heceta Head light-house.

## Coach Adams' Proteges Face Full Week Ahead

DALLAS—Coach Adams' baseball team has a full program ahead of it with three games scheduled for this week. All three games will be played at night under the lights on the local diamond.

## Governor, Snell Accept DAV Bid

Governor Charles H. Martin and Secretary of State Earl Enell yesterday accepted invitations to attend the annual state convention of the Disabled American Veterans of the World War, to be held at Bend later this year.

## Salem Woman to Speak at Woodburn Meeting

WOODBURN—The social meeting of the Federated Women of the Methodist Episcopal church will be held Tuesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Paul Burkert with Mrs. Sarah Lewis, director of religious education at the First Methodist church of Salem, slated as the speaker.

## Ten Years Ago

May 18, 1928 Unopposed for the republican endorsement for president Herbert Hoover, secretary of commerce, was guaranteed the support of at least 12 of the 13 delegates from Hoover.

## Twenty Years Ago

May 18, 1918 Returns indicate renomination of Governor Withycombe, Charles L. McNary for U. S. Senator and C. E. Albin for mayor of Salem.

## W. Salem Having Poppy Sale Also

Kingwood unit of American Legion auxiliary at West Salem will open its poppy sale today simultaneously with the organizations all over the country, according to Ida G. McClendon, an officer of the auxiliary.

## Chemeketas Plan Outing at Beach

The Chemeketas annual Memorial day outing will be held at Yachats this year. The scheduled activities for the two-and-one-half days, May 28, 29, and 30, will include organized evening recreation each night under the guidance of Burt Cray and Bob Wilson, a sea food dinner prepared by Lois Steink and staff, a hike down Cummins ridge to the ocean, and visits to the Cape Perpetua observatory, Devil's Churn, Sea Lion caves and Heceta Head light-house.

## Coach Adams' Proteges Face Full Week Ahead

DALLAS—Coach Adams' baseball team has a full program ahead of it with three games scheduled for this week. All three games will be played at night under the lights on the local diamond.

## Governor, Snell Accept DAV Bid

Governor Charles H. Martin and Secretary of State Earl Enell yesterday accepted invitations to attend the annual state convention of the Disabled American Veterans of the World War, to be held at Bend later this year.

## Salem Woman to Speak at Woodburn Meeting

WOODBURN—The social meeting of the Federated Women of the Methodist Episcopal church will be held Tuesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Paul Burkert with Mrs. Sarah Lewis, director of religious education at the First Methodist church of Salem, slated as the speaker.

## Radio Programs

Table listing radio programs for Wednesday, May 18, 1938. Columns include station call letters, program name, and time. Stations listed include KSLM, KOAC, KGW, and KEX.

"BLOW ME DOWN!" POPEYE IS Coming To the Air! K-S-A-L-O-M Mutual Broadcasting System

Tonight 9:15 p.m. KSLM HEAR W. W. Chadwick Speak on His Candidacy for Mayor of Salem P. Adv. Chadwick-for-Mayor Club