

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
From First Statesman, March 23, 1851

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THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING CO.
Charles A. Sprague, Pres. - Sheldon F. Sackett, Secy.

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Changing Unemployment Insurance

Considerable criticism has developed throughout the state over provisions of H. B. 394 which makes major amendments to the existing Oregon system of unemployment insurance. The nubbin of the protests center in the alleged abandonment of the merit principle in assessing payroll taxes against employers and the abolition of segregated funds in favor of pooled reserves.

Much of this criticism is based on insufficient knowledge of the pending bill. Nevertheless the discussion is valuable because it gets the very vital matter of unemployment insurance taxes and payments out in the open. The entire subject of the unemployment insurance tax, which raises more than the personal, corporate and intangibles taxes combined each year in Oregon, has been too little debated and discussed.

We heartily favor the contention of employers that those which regularize work and reduce unemployment should be rewarded with lower tax rates. This principle has worked admirably in the industrial accident insurance administration. It has policed that state program; it will do the same for unemployment insurance.

The unemployment insurance commission has recognized the validity of this principle and included it in the pending amendments. Merit rating has not been thrown to the winds as some critics assume. If the proposed amendments become law and are not changed in the 41st legislative session, after July 1, 1941, tax rates on employer payrolls will vary between one and four per cent depending on the charges made against an employer's reserves for benefits paid. The new law would boost the minimum payment of one-half of one per cent (which could be eventually obtained under the existing statute) to one per cent and would set a ceiling of four per cent on the annual payroll tax (not prescribed in the existing law.) No employer would get the lowest rate until his reserve totaled 12 or more per cent of an annual average payroll after deducting from that reserve all benefits chargeable to his account. The rates between one and four per cent would be graduated on the reserve balance maintained by an employer; every employer whose payments had not equalled benefits paid would be charged the maximum four per cent rate. This would apply to most manufacturers whose charges to the fund have exceeded taxes paid by a heavy ratio.

Amendments to the existing law, as they effect merit rating, will not be effective for two more years under the provisions of the federal social security act which governs the operations of the state act. The former provides that no state can put a merit rating tax into effect until three years of benefit payments have passed. Thus the initial tax reduction Oregon employers could obtain would not come until January 1, 1941. The commission asks that this time be extended six months to permit it to use the months after the year-end rush is passed to compute employer reserves. Furthermore the amendments in H. B. 394 include the setting up of a seven-man advisory council which will study for the next two years the entire matter of merit rating and make a report to the next legislative session. If the proposed one to four per cent tax, based on experience ratings is inequitable, there will be ample time to change that in 1941.

The most difficult chore the advisory council will have is to determine how far unemployment insurance costs should be spread over all industry and how far they should be absorbed by the industry or particular factory which has the greatest benefit load. The proposed one per cent minimum annual payroll tax would go against a "perfect" plant with no unemployment on the theory that every employer must bear a part of the unemployment load; the four per cent maximum puts a ceiling over industries, such as lumber, whose unemployment benefits on a full-cost basis might run to eight to ten per cent of total payroll.

The objection raised against the amendments that the reserve fund is abandoned for a pooled fund are not technically correct. The unemployment insurance commission has always pooled its funds in a manner similar to the industrial accident commission. Pooling of funds does not imply necessary abandonment of the reserve setup or a graduated tax.

While the advisory council is studying merit rating it should add to its inquiry the subject of broadening the tax base for unemployment insurance. England divides the cost three ways: the employer, the employee and the sovereign each contribute one-third of the tax. The Oregon setup unduly penalizes the employer by making him carry all the charges of unemployment insurance and unemployment is by no means solely the employer's fault. As long, however, as employers are bearing all the cost they have a vital interest in seeing equitable amendment of the existing statute. Unfortunately any tax rate amendments now made must be put on ice for two years until they are operative which means a gross annual payroll tax aggregating \$6,000,000 will continue to be laid on employers in the state, share and share alike at the 2.7 per cent rate.

Peace Comes to Spain

The end of the two and one-half year bitter struggle in Spain is at an end, the formal conclusion only a matter of days. Loyalist forces have continuously contracted their requirements for peace until their own present "demand" is that there be no reprisals against former government fighters. France and Great Britain whose "non intervention" policy made rebel victory possible, are active at the deathbed of the loyalists and trying to get the best peace terms possible. General Franco has already promulgated decrees setting up military courts to try his political enemies and loyalist leaders need not harbor hopes that they can be saved from exile or death.

The plight of 380,000 civilian and military refugees from Catalonia, now huddled in improvised camps in France, is pitiful. They are destitute in body and mind. The land from which they fled is in the hands of the conquerors. Peace at best can bring them only a dismal march across the border to a home where they can expect severe treatment.

The good aspects of the Spanish war's termination are that the slaughter of women and children is at an end. A century will be needed to repair the physical damages done to the nation. The liberal movement which led to the overthrow of the monarchy and eventually brought the uprising of the army under Franco is quashed for years. Spain will be fascistic with Hitler and Mussolini willing tutors to Franco in the methods of totalitarianism.

The concern of England and France is not centered in the plight of the war-distressed people of Spain. The political aspects of a fascistic country at the entrance to the Mediterranean alarm these powers. Unless the influence of Franco's allies can be neutralized by economic advantages granted by the democracies, Spain will be another zone of influence endangering the peace of Europe.

Bits for Breakfast

By E. J. HENDRICKS

Barry suggests that the inscription be poppycock for the new state capitol building.

(Continuing from yesterday.) Quoting the Barry letter further: "Clark with the progress came up the river and joined Lewis, when a Sacajawea recognized the friendly Shoshone chief as her own brother."

"The boats were left, and the expedition crossed Lewis Pass to the Shoshone village where Lewis had been. It was found that the Salmon river is unnavigable, and that the Indians knew nothing of the mountains beyond. Fortunately an aged man, old Tohie, was hired to guide them to the Clearwater river. He seemed to be the only one who knew the country even that far."

"They made dug-outs where Orofino, Idaho, now is, and floated with the current to the mouth of the Columbia river. Through the region unknown to Sacajawea, Lewis and Clark realized that they had made a very long detour, from Great Falls, Montana, so upon the return, when in the neighborhood of the present Missoula, Montana, Lewis with a detachment made a short cut, to Great Falls, and then down the Missouri to our North Dakota, where he was joined by Clark and Sacajawea."

"She and her husband were left at the previous winter-quarters near the Hidatsa village. One hundred and thirty-three years later, the eighteenth birthday of the State of Oregon is celebrated by a statue of Lewis being guided by Sacajawea."

"Since the boats and some supplies had been left where Armstrong, Mont., now is, Clark separated from Lewis near the site of Missoula, Mont., and went to the boats. To avoid the long detour via our Salmon City, Idaho, he took a short cut through the Big Hole basin, which is a prehistoric lake-bed, encircled by precipitous mountains, with trails leading through the old outlet. After recrossing the continental divide into the Louisiana Purchase, the Indian trail reached where cameas had been dug and there were many trails. Clark was traveling by compass, and the outlet of the old lake was directly in line with the boats, while it would have been almost impossible to have gotten out of the lake-bed except by that outlet."

"Clark had then returned to the locality known to Sacajawea, and she told him that just beyond, when he could see the level prairie now called Big Hole, he would see the gap in front of him, which is the outlet of the lake. That was the first time that Sacajawea had guided. Clark kept straight ahead, through the gap to the boats. Sergeant Ordway took the boats down the river, and picked up Lewis. Since Clark knew of the Yellowstone river from the Indians, he desired to explore it, so from Three Forks he started along the trail of the Flatheads to cross the ridge by the Flathead gap, to which all buffalo paths converged."

"Sacajawea had traveled across the gap used by Shoshones, where Bozeman, Montana, now is, and persuaded Clark to flounder across a bog, caused by numerous beaver dams, with much hardship, in the unnecessary detour, but he reached the Yellowstone near where the Flathead trail met that river."

"Those were the only two times where Sacajawea acted as guide to one detachment; both were east of the continental divide, on the return trip, to the Louisiana Purchase."

"The statue represents both Lewis and Clark guided by Sacajawea."

"A suitable inscription might be poppycock."

So ends the Barry letter. Mr. Barry sent with the letter a map showing the localities mentioned in the letter, as they were when Lewis and Clark passed that way, coming and returning. The map, with the original letter, will be preserved, and go down to posterity, in order that future historians and students may not be misled. Mr. Barry also used an illustration to show how the first translations led to the change, starting with a Nes Perce Indian speaking to a Shoshone slave, who gave it to Sacajawea, who translated it into Hidatsa, or Minnetaree, when Charbonneau rendered it in French, and then a Frenchman translated it into English, for Lewis and Clark. This picture, also, will go with the files.

It would seem, from the foregoing that the artists making the capitol statutory have not yet found out that the proper spelling of the name of the famous bird woman (or boat woman) is Sacajawea, not the old style, Sacajawes.

The change was adopted by the United States Geographic Board some 10 years ago. Any way, it was in copyrighted use, by this colonialist, in the first days of 1911.

Films Get Another Unknown



Helen Hansen Recently selected as the "streamlined girl" in a beauty contest in Chicago, Helen Hansen, Downer's Grove, now is in Hollywood. Some day you may see her in the movies as a star.

On the Record

By DOROTHY THOMPSON

Thanks for Anything Mr. George Rublee is to be congratulated for having used his position, intelligence and common sense to secure from the Germans the man ambassador in Russia, who said of the events in Germany that they have yet given in the matter of their Jewish citizens and the emigration of those citizens.

To what extent the German willingness to listen to a measure of reason is due to the reaction abroad and to what extent it is due to the internal reaction it is not possible for this column to gauge. Certainly the world's indignation was not without effect. The late Count Brockdorff-Rantzau, for many years German ambassador in Russia, used to say of the Bolsheviks, "Parvenus are sensitive."

But tribute also must be paid to the German people. I say, as one who has known Germany intimately for years and who has lived there, that the whole German people were shocked and appalled by the events in November. Letters have come to me, smuggled out of Germany from friends and from strangers there, begging me to tell the world that these actions were not initiated by the German people nor did they have their support. I am sure that these statements are true, and I am sure that the German government knows it.

This does not mean, however, that one can count on any reversal of the fundamental German policy. One can certainly not count on the reversal as long as the anti-semitism, which is their chief stock in trade in fomenting a world counter revolution against democracy, is working so well as it is.

One must consider, rather, French, and then a Frenchman translated it into English, for Lewis and Clark. This picture, also, will go with the files.

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High and Dry After the Flood

When flood waters of the Ohio river receded at Ft. Pleasant, W. Va., the launch was found high and dry on a street, a quarter mile from the river. The American Red Cross has come to the aid of the thousands of flood sufferers with food and clothing.

Radio Programs

- 8:00-8:15 - Show Wildcat
- 8:30-9:00 - Farm and Home
- 9:00-9:15 - Agriculture Today
- 9:15-9:30 - News
- 9:30-9:45 - Home Institute
- 9:45-10:00 - Great Moments in History
- 10:00-10:15 - Musical and Vocal
- 10:15-10:30 - Voice of American Women
- 10:30-10:45 - Radio Review
- 10:45-11:00 - Manhattan Melodias
- 11:00-11:15 - Dept. Agriculture
- 11:15-11:30 - Orchestra
- 11:30-11:45 - Hints to Housewives
- 11:45-12:00 - News
- 12:00-12:15 - Market Reports
- 12:15-12:30 - Quiet Hour
- 12:30-12:45 - Club Matinee
- 12:45-1:00 - Orchestra
- 1:00-1:15 - Financial and Grain
- 1:15-1:30 - Jive Five
- 1:30-1:45 - Landl Trio
- 1:45-2:00 - Caribbean Core
- 2:00-2:15 - Orchestra
- 2:15-2:30 - Patricia Gilmore
- 2:30-2:45 - News
- 2:45-3:00 - Ray Perkins
- 3:00-3:15 - Kenners Hotel
- 3:15-3:30 - Between Bookends
- 3:30-3:45 - Stories in Miniature
- 3:45-4:00 - Original Poetry
- 4:00-4:15 - Science on the March
- 4:15-4:30 - Hints to Housewives
- 4:30-4:45 - Public Forum
- 4:45-5:00 - Hear of Changes
- 5:00-5:15 - Sport Column
- 5:15-5:30 - Freshest Thing in Town
- 5:30-5:45 - True or False
- 5:45-6:00 - Radio Forum
- 6:00-6:15 - News
- 6:15-6:30 - Orchestra
- 6:30-6:45 - Stanford University
- 6:45-7:00 - Orchestra
- 7:00-7:15 - Wrestling
- 7:15-7:30 - They Go
- 7:30-7:45 - News
- 7:45-8:00 - Paul Carson

Safety Valve

To the Editor: I write about House Bill No. 343 for an act to establish county school equalization fund. No. 1 classroom unit \$1200.00 for teachers salaries for not less than 15 resident elementary pupils.

A few days ago the writer asked Rex Putnam, superintendent of public instruction and one of the sponsors of the bill, if the bill could not raise our taxes. He could not tell. Here are the facts about the bill. I have lived for 42 years 16 miles east of Salem in Victor Point school district. I have been a school director for 25 years.

Last year we paid to the school funds \$484 and received \$460 from the funds and paid a special tax of \$160, total \$620 for teachers salaries.

Now Mr. Rex Putnam and the sponsors of bill No. 343 are asking us to pay the teacher \$1200.00 a year an increase of about 100 percent. Is that not one of the most extortionate tax bills you ever heard of?

In the 70 districts in Marion county classroom unit, the present tax for teachers is \$47,131.

10 Years Ago

February 19, 1929 Shortly after adjournment of legislature state board of control will have plans completed for new \$150,000 state office building with construction slated for May.

Dewey Hamm, for past two and a half years a member of sales staff of Buster Brown shoe store, has taken over management of store in Corvallis.

Millar McGilchrist, assistant attorney general with headquarters in Washington, D.C., has left for Portland and Seattle after visit with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William McGilchrist, Sr.

20 Years Ago

February 19, 1919 Members of legislature were guests of Six O'Clock club of First Methodist church last night to hear address of Egard B. Piper, editor of the Oregonian, who spoke on his trip to England and France.

R. N. Stanfield, former speaker of house and lately a candidate for US senator, is passing several days at legislature.

Executive board of Red Cross met Tuesday and decided that emergency hospital is no longer needed. Miss Grace Taylor will close and put the hospital in order.

Mrs. Woodman Is Hostess to Group

DALLAS - Mrs. Roy Woodman entertained the members of the Social Hour club at her home Thursday afternoon. The afternoon was spent in sewing with tea hour following.

Present were Mrs. August Risser, Mrs. James M. Leitch, Mrs. G. H. Houghton, Mrs. Henry W. H. Herschel York, Mrs. Joe Linert, and the hostess, Mrs. Woodman.

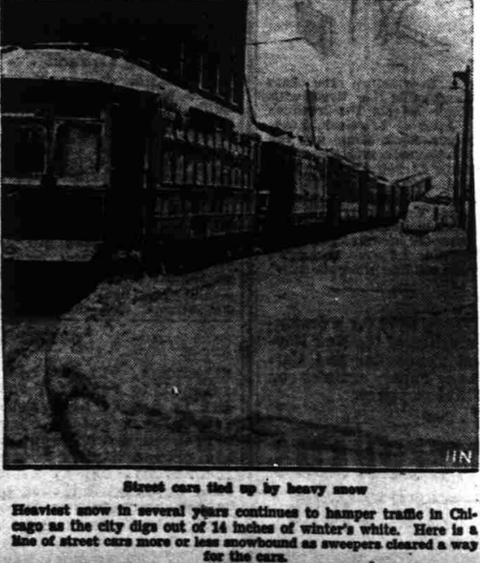
The next meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Sydney Hansen on Thursday afternoon, March 2.

I presume those responsible for this, thinking he had accomplished his work in the far western country, was sending him back to carry the gospel to our eastern friends.

A lady said to me "What have they done with the circuit rider?" I have not seen it since the state house was finished. It was a pleasing sight to all passing by on State street and to the thousands who visited Willson park. It seemed to me to be a part of Willamette university and should be at least near if not on its campus.

ONE who hates to see Salem robbed of its beauty.

Chicago Digs Out of Snow



Street cars tied up by heavy snow. Heaviest snow in several years continues to hamper traffic in Chicago as the city digs out of 14 inches of winter's white. Here is a line of street cars more or less mounded as sweepers cleared a way for the cars.