

The Oregon Statesman

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

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Out Again, in Again, no Gain

Having discussed the merits of the monetary bill when it was amended to the administration's chagrin ten days ago, all this column should need to do now that the senate's action has been reversed is to reverse the remarks made at that time. The devaluation power is debatable; it was defended on grounds related to international trade, opposed on grounds related to national stability and morale.

Supposing that England should devalue the pound in terms of gold; then, the dollar remaining stable, it would take fewer dollars to buy a pound, and in terms of dollars, British goods would be cheaper and American tariffs on those goods would be lower, while in terms of the pound, United States goods would be higher and so would British tariffs.

If we subscribe to the theory that the gold content of a monetary unit is the real criterion of its value, the prices of British goods would rather promptly increase and the advantage would be wiped out. However, it is not difficult to recall that when the gold content of the dollar was reduced 40 per cent in 1934, the general level of prices did not increase by that amount.

Thus it is seen that the readjustment of British prices in our theoretical case would not be sufficient to offset the advantage gained—unless Englishmen are more sensitive to the gold behind the pound than Americans are to the gold behind the dollar.

In the congressional argument both sides were being unfair from partisan motives. Thus while there was little objection on the floor to the stabilization fund, the anti-administration group sought to wipe it out, while the administration forces in their final victory restored the treasury's authority to purchase foreign silver—which means that the United States will pursue its idiotic course of financing Mexico's communistic experiments and Japan's conquest of China.

Finally, just as the amendments constituted a major rebuff to the administration, their elimination constitutes a victory—but one gained only after terrific pressure had been brought upon democratic senators whose inclination was to be independent in this matter.

Responsibilities of Office

"I'm going to soldier from now on," vowed the corporal of the guard one bleak morning in autumn of 1918. The corporal was in a jam. He had posted a relief sentry in the watchman's hours without reporting that the man to be relieved was missing.

Which is just by way of introduction to the observation that Judge McMahan's instructions to the new grand jury for July were temperate in tone and fully justified by circumstances—we have reference solely to the instructions and not to the allegations which accompanied them, which remain to be proven or disproven.

The inference is inescapable that some of the audits of county finances in past years have failed to reveal conditions which the public has a right to expect an audit to show. It is the minimum duty of the grand jury to determine, if it can, whether this inadequacy extended to the audits of other offices and whether other shortages are hidden about.

In private business, a man may take his own chances in trusting his associates' honesty; but a public officer is a public trust and it is incumbent upon every public officer, like the corporal whose faith in human nature had been shaken, to "soldier from now on."

Analyzing Holiday Fatality Record

In the normal course of events, some 4400 deaths occur daily in the United States. We do not have at hand any figures on the total number of these that are violent deaths. Traffic accidents normally account for 110 deaths daily, suicides about 60 and homicides—both murder and manslaughter—about 37. But the cases of manslaughter include some of the traffic deaths.

However since these figures leave out the deaths by drowning and other miscellaneous accidents, it is safe to say the average is over 200 daily. Latest figures on the four-day Fourth of July weekend indicate about 700 violent deaths, or about 100 less than normal!

Probably it is not the case that the Fourth of July has become "safer and saner" than other times of the year—merely that the news services haven't received reports on all the deaths. But these figures or every-day fatalities should be taken into account in reading about the heavy death toll on holidays. It is not suggested that precautions should be relaxed on such occasions, but that they should be increased at all times.

That's his story and he'll stick to it, but there is widespread suspicion that the Portland merchant who was locked up in his millinery store over the Fourth, "planned it that way" to dodge the noise and confusion of the celebration.

A rhymester contributor to the New York Herald Tribune suggests that when Hitler, Mussolini, Franco, et al can't find time to sign their letters, their typists append the notation "Dictated—but not red."

Bits for Breakfast

By R. J. HENDRICKS

John Minto, Oregon pioneer, a factor of history in its making; in the '44 immigration; an American of glorious choice:

(Continuing from yesterday.) "The same evening at Linton I first saw Henry Williamson, who subsequently became my partner in the purchase of the first site of the M. E. (Jason Lee) mission, some 10 miles below Salem, and from whom in 1846 I received the following as the true version of a contest between himself and the Hudson's Bay company as represented by Mr. Douglas:

"Williamson, after considerable examination of western Oregon, concluded to lay his claim on the bank of the Columbia river west of Vancouver, making his east line close to the enclosed fields of the company—he did not attempt to 'jump' any of the land that was fenced or improved."

"His action soon attracted attention and a meeting was had, at which Dr. E. White was present, ostensibly as agent of the United States government, but really as a toady of the Hudson's Bay company by an incessant plea to 'compromise,' directed at Williamson. The latter, in his behalf, claimed the right under the treaty of joint occupancy to locate such claim as the laws of the provisional government of Oregon allowed him an unoccupied land unclaimed by individuals. Mr. Douglas said that they could not permit him to settle there, as the social intercourse between him and the company's servants would be sure to breed trouble to the company, by creating a spirit of discontent and insubordination."

"He told Mr. Williamson that the company would gladly assist him if he would locate where his presence would not affect their interests, but they could not permit him to settle there." To this Williamson replied that he should not seek to associate with the employees of the company, yet did not feel called upon to surrender his liberty to that respect and he did not ask nor desire the assistance of the company. All he asked was the freedom of an American citizen to pursue his own business in his own way in peace and good neighborhood; the location of Vancouver objected him, and he saw no sufficient reason in Mr. Douglas's objections to hinder his choice of it as a claim, and he intended to stay there."

"Mr. Douglas replied that 'then they would be under the necessity of arresting and sending him to their chief factory on Hudson bay,' to which Williamson replied: 'Mr. Douglas, you have the power, but you will send me a long ways north if you send me out of the reach of the United States government.' "It is evident that Dr. McLoughlin, good man that he was, did not, according to his position of humorous letter, understand Williamson's case. Alderman at this same time attempted to 'jump' the doctor's claim at Oregon City. Alderman, a rough, unscrupulous man, was shrewd enough to do all he could to place himself in the same boat with Henry Williamson, and with many people then in Oregon never examined into the subject enough to learn that there was no similarity between the cases nor the character of the men."

"Williamson, at the time he told me of the above related, wished to and did join as silent partner in the purchase of the Old Mission. He let his claim adjoining Vancouver lay in abeyance till such time as he would go back to Indiana to meet in the bonds of wedlock a young lady whom he had left under a promise which justified her in hoping and praying for his safe return. He did not abandon his determination to hold his claim against the Hudson's Bay company. He fully expected to make it good when he left here in the spring of 1846, leaving a considerable amount of personal property to come back to, but—"

"The best laid schemes of mice and men gang oft aglees. And leave us naught but grief and pain for promised joy."

"On his arrival at the home of his betrothed he met her family just returning from her burial. It is in the nature of few men to pursue previous plans after a shock like that. He paid no more attention to his claim near Vancouver, I believe; came back to this coast in 1847, was wounded by an arrow shot in the Rogue River valley, went to the mines, and was the first, within my knowledge, to drive sheep from Oregon to California (1850.)"



Call Board

ELSONOR Today - Double bill, Jack Benny and Rochester in "Man About Town" with Dorothy Lamour and "600 Enemies" with Walter Pidgeon and Rita Johnson. Saturday - Mickey Mouse matinee with double bill and chapter 3 of "The Oregon Trail."

Call board listing for HOLLYWOOD, GRAND, STATE, and HOME OWNED HOLLYWOOD 15. Includes showtimes and featured films like 'Merrily We Live', 'Young Mr. Lincoln', 'The Three Musketeers', and 'The Merry Girls'.

Safety Valve

In your Tuesday issue you published a news report covering the crash that took the life of my son, Donald. This article unfairly credited him with the blame for the accident. I believe that it is due the dead boy's memory that their information through your columns may have a true picture of the accident. Your reporter took those parts of the state police report of the accident that would indicate that the blame belonged to the boys on the two cycles and completely ignored the part played by the car that was responsible.

The boys on the cycles were driving north and the Wodswoda car entered the intersection going east, or on the left side of the boys. Wodswoda admitted to the coroner that he saw the boys before entering the intersection but stated that he thought he could beat them across. The law gives the vehicle on the right the right of way at an intersection. Yet the driver of the auto did not stop at the intersection even though he admits he clearly saw the cycles approaching and undoubtedly heard them before seeing them.

The road where the crash took place is a long straightway with perfect visibility. There were no cars on the road for half a mile of the cycles. The 65 to 70 miles per hour that the boys were traveling was fast but not excessive nor reckless speed under the conditions. At almost any minute in the day there are 50 cars and stages traveling the much more heavily used Pacific highway between here and Portland that are driving at a similar speed and in so doing are not considered to be driving recklessly.

The cycle skidded 115 feet as your report states, or a little more than the frontage of two Salem city lots. A cycle is a comparatively light vehicle and skids much farther than does a car when brakes are applied at similar speeds. The road finish at the scene of the accident is a heavy oil finish which made the brakes less effective than on rough pavement. Earlier in the day the two boys had given their cycles a time test on the fairgrounds track and my boy's cycle when driven at top speed was unable to go over 75 miles. Just before the accident he had been having trouble with his carburetor which would naturally slow him up.

The boys were driving rapidly but not at an excessive speed and had they been granted the right of way that the law provides and which they were expecting when the car drove to the intersection they would have escaped injury and the car driver would have lost only a second or two of time. I do not believe that under the circumstances the inference left by your reporter's story that excessive speed was the cause of the

Advertisement for the movie 'Young Mr. Lincoln' featuring Henry Fonda, Alice Brady, Marjorie Weaver, and Arleen Whelan. Includes the quote 'HE WAS ALWAYS READY FOR A FIGHT, A FROLIC ... OR A SPEECH!' and '... And he was tops in all of them ...!'.

Radio Programs schedule for KRLM-FRIDAY-1960 Ks, KGW-FRIDAY-620 Ks, and KOAC-FRIDAY-550 Ks, listing various shows and times.

Advertisement for 'Only 5 Cruisers Due' from the navy, mentioning the fleet week commencing today.

Advertisement for Capitol 'Last Times Today' featuring 'Under Cover Doctor' and 'Secret Service of the Air', starting Saturday.

Advertisement for a dance at Jordan Dance Hall with art and his Salem Ramblers.

Large advertisement for the movie 'Man About Town' featuring Phil Harris, Betty Grable, and Dorothy Lamour, with the tagline 'ROCHESTER SPEAKING, BOSS!!'.