

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sweeps Up; No Fear Shall Awe"

THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING CO. CHARLES A. SPRAGUE, President

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Workmen's Compensation Amendments

Recognizing that it will be necessary, after the legislature convenes, to devote extensive attention to issues arising there, this column has purposely limited its advance discussion of legislative problems in order to avoid an excess of repetition.

An interim committee has been working diligently upon this problem and has recently submitted its report, including not only recommendations but the proposed amendments in bill form, ready for introduction.

It will be readily seen that there are only three ways in which the first of these objectives can be attained: (1) By reducing the number of accidents, which would be a benefit in itself perhaps exceeding in value the increase in compensation it would make possible;

As a preliminary step to each of these objectives, it is proposed that actual administration of the system be entrusted to a single manager rather than the present commission. On this point there was no controversy, at least among the members of the committee on which were represented both labor and employers.

Now it so happens—and it must be apparent to anyone who makes a habit of reading circuit court news—that a major item of expense to the commission and to a large number of employers and injured workmen, is the cost of court trials.

These types of litigation are so common, even in cases involving small compensation payments, and so costly that they add up to a tremendous expense. The interim committee thought to eliminate this by doing away with workmen's appeals to the courts, substituting instead appeals to the commission which, bereft of its managerial duties except in a supervisory capacity, would be in position to sit as an unbiased tribunal.

Though injured workmen would in the long run benefit from this saving, organized labor is loath to surrender the right of trial by jury, and this will almost beyond doubt be the issue in the hottest fight now predictable in the legislature.

With respect to the proposal that compensation for occupational disease be provided, it should not be misconstrued as a "liberalization" of the present law—which is itself not a "liberal" law in the sense that it gratuitously affords relief to injured workmen. At least 50 per cent of its purpose is protection of employers against damage suits for injury.

Food for the French Children

There is a great deal of satisfaction in knowing that the Red Cross is at least to be permitted to send medical supplies, food concentrates and canned milk for the use of French children who fell unwitting victims last summer to the lust of the German war machine.

Since that time its seriousness has grown by leaps and bounds as the extent of German harshness in the confiscation of captured food supplies became known. But with an appreciation of the growing seriousness of the problem has also grown, in equal and perhaps greater proportion, a sense of frustration with the knowledge that the British, the holders of the blockade along the continental coastline from the North Cape to the Bay of Biscay and throughout the Mediterranean, would consider the sending of foodstuffs to captured countries as a measure calculated to aid their enemies, and would refuse to permit it.

That has been the quandary: all parties, British, and American, and, sardonically, German, have agreed that the need for food supplies is pressing, at the very minimum. But the British have been inflexible, until now, in their determination to preserve the blockade at any costs, and most Americans, understanding their motives and recognizing the war situation for what it is, have not urged the point regardless of consequences.

But now the word that Britain has consented to allow elemental supplies to be sent to France—and some also to Spain—is doubly welcome. It dissolves all doubt that Britain is cold to the pleas of the hungry ones in the conquered countries; and it permits the great funds which have been accumulated in America—Marion county included—by the Red Cross to be put to the use for which they were originally designed. In this there is a great deal of satisfaction, and much relief.

Flasher Signals too Flashy

The people who figure out the means of traffic control and regulation and who solve the other physical problems of motor transportation have in recent years adopted the scientific viewpoint and method and become "traffic engineers." Their solutions are based upon scientific calculation as well as practical experimentation; they leave nothing to guesswork except, inevitably, what use the unpredictable motorist will make of their scientific solutions.

One does not therefore lightly quarrel with these scientists; yet their science has not yet come of age; it is in a transitional stage, some of its solutions being merely tentative to date. And besides, nearly all of us form a part of that unpredictable factor with which they must deal, and thus our testimony is relevant and material, even though perhaps incompetent.

Borrowing from psychology the scientific principle that action attracts attention, the traffic engineers have recently adopted a "flasher" signal which will, they hope, achieve universal recognition as a "caution" message. In downtown Salem after the red and green signals cease to function at night, the amber flashers blink with all the monotony of mechanical impulse and have long since come to be ignored by local drivers. They may spell "caution" to strangers—on that point we may not testify intelligently.

Bits for Breakfast

By R. J. HENDRICKS

Col. Nesmith delivered a 1-18-40 funeral oration of General Lane; great friend, bitter enemies, firm friends at last.

(Continued from yesterday.) September 19, 1869, the state legislature met in the Holman building, still standing, on the corner north of the present Statesman building.

Six of the 16 senators hid out. Confusion reigned. The main fight was between the Douglas Democrats and the secession or Lane Democrats. Sept. 13 the senate organized without a quorum. A motion was made to adjourn sine die. It was carried.

Col. E. D. Baker, reputed to be the greatest living orator, a great friend of Abraham Lincoln, and Colonel Nesmith were elected United States senators by that legislature, on the 19th ballot, Nesmith for the long term and Baker for the short term.

Lane, who had been a popular idol in Oregon, who had been made the first United States senator from this state, along with Delson Smith, also a Democrat, was out. Says Bancroft: "Slowly, reluctantly, regretfully, came home the truth to the people of Oregon that Joseph Lane was a secessionist."

General Lane hired an Irish teamster to take him and his baggage to Roseburg. Says Bancroft: Jesse Applegate testified as follows: "In crossing the Calapooa mountains with only his Irish teamster, by some mischance a pistol was discharged, wounding Lane in the arm. The Irishman, frightened lest it should be thought that he had inflicted the wound with murderous intent, fled to the house of Applegate, at Yoncalla, and related what had occurred."

Several history writers say Lane went into subject poverty. He did not, for he, like Jesse Applegate hurried to take care of General Lane, was at the southern end of the Coast Fork road over the Calapooa mountain; the original and old Coast Fork road, not the new one by way of Drain.

There is an item in connection with the election of Nesmith to the United States senate in 1869, and his high service thereafter, that has not been generally understood or appreciated. The Portland Oregonian in a leading editorial of the issue of Oct. 30, 1884, of that newspaper said in part:

"It is the fortune of few men to render the country greater service than that rendered by Senator Nesmith during the night struggle of 1861-65; a service that SURPASSED THAT EVER RENDERED BY ANY OTHER MAN. . . . It is well known, though all may not remember it, that General Albert Sidney Johnston was commander of the Department of the Pacific in 1860-61.

"Of Southern birth, he was an earnest supporter of secession and an ardent supporter of slavery. His whole sympathies were with the South; yet while other men of like principles were resigning their commissions in the army to render their services to the Southern Confederacy Johnston held on, but only because he thought he could render the Confederate cause greater service in the position he then held than in any other he could assume.

"All through the war, indeed, the whole Pacific slope, was peopled largely with men from the Southern states, most of whom were sects the Pacific highway there is another amber flasher light. It calls attention to the fact that there is a major intersection which should be approached with caution. But it does more; it virtually monopolizes the attention of approaching drivers. The alternating glare and darkness are confusing, and seem destined to cause accidents rather than prevent them. The same observation applies to several similar flashers in the outskirts of Portland.

With all the humility appropriate to a layman delving into scientific matters, we incline to the opinion that in combining two attention-compelling principles, light and action, the engineers have in this instance been too thorough. Further experimentation will prove, we are confident, that the "caution" signals will be adequate with much less candle-power.

30,000 Italians Surrender as Bardia Falls



British troops captured the Italian stronghold of Bardia, Libya, January 5 and seized more than 30,000 fascists, including their commander, General Arnaldo Borghese. Another Italian corps commander and four other senior generals also were captured, the official announcement said. Above, official British photo showing a column of Italian captives similar to troops made prisoner in fall of Bardia.

Radio Programs

- KELM-FRIDAY-1200 Kc. 8:30-Millman's Melodias. 8:45-Saints Salute. 7:30-Hits and Record.

- KELM-FRIDAY-1100 Kc. 8:30-Music Clock. 8:45-Western Agriculture. 7:30-Breakfast Club.

- KLSS-FRIDAY-1200 Kc. 8:30-Stepmother. 8:45-Stepmother. 7:30-Trail Blazers.

- KLSS-FRIDAY-1200 Kc. 8:30-Sunrise Serenade. 8:45-Dinner Hour Melodias. 7:30-News.

- KLSS-FRIDAY-1200 Kc. 8:30-Story of Mary Martin. 8:45-The Gaiding Light. 7:30-The Gaiding Light.

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WOTAN'S WEDGE

By FRANCIS GERARD

"(Chapter 4 continued) Prince Max strode across the lofty room, the walls of which were hung with a magnificent collection of heads. Halting near his father's chair, he bowed stiffly and said 'Excellent!'"

"Thank you, my father, I am in excellent health and the journey was quite comfortable. I hope you are well."

"My age is against me, Max," replied his father. "But save for an occasional twinge of gout, my health is satisfactory. Will you take a glass of wine with me?"

"It would be an honor," bowed Max. "May I pour it for you?"

"No, I have a headache," Max said, smiling. "When your glasses were filled, the boy received permission to be seated and they sat chatting politely as though Max had merely been for a ride during the morning and had not returned home on a terrible mission after an absence of several months."

"Your sister's health," replied the old man, "is entirely satisfactory in the," he bit off the end of the sentence; then concluded, "at the present moment."

News Behind Today's News

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—The peculiar setup which Mr. Roosevelt devised for the defense drive is at its root, a device for keeping the final authority within himself.

While Mr. Hillman and Mr. Knudsen are both reasonable men, their viewpoints are opposite. Agreement is to be expected logically between them upon established principles. But what they would do about giving contracts to Henry Ford, whom Hillman considers a labor act violator, is only the first question and not necessarily the one most likely to cause sincere differences.

That is where Mr. Roosevelt steps in. While his announcement indicates his hope that he has passed the responsibility entirely to Mr. Knudsen-Hillman, it is conceded that in all questions of disagreement—meaning therefore the most important question—Mr. Roosevelt will give the third and deciding vote.

War and navy secretaries, Stimson and Knox, Knudsen, and particularly Knudsen's lawyer, Frederick M. Eaton, and Blackwell Smith, legal counsel to the State, in addition, were responsible for the legal form—except the Hillman part of it. In fact they sent several suggested executive orders to Budget Director Harold Smith before the final text was decided upon.

Among other technical objections to these earlier drafts was their uniformity in leaving vague the position of Mr. Hillman and assigning top role to Mr. Knudsen.

There was some disappointment within the defense commission because Mr. Roosevelt failed to choose a single all-powerful authority, but confidence remains that the job can still be done if aggressive administration is attempted. Mr. Roosevelt obviously had in mind that Hillman will act as friendly watchdog to prevent the gains labor has made, and all agree that is a good objective if it does not jam the defense works.

Advertisement for Fred Meyer Drug Bldg. featuring 'JANUARY COUPON DAYS at Lower Level Style Shop'. Lists various items on sale: Blouses, Sweaters, Gloves, Buttons, Neckwear, Dresses, Table Covers, and more. Includes coupon details and expiration dates.

"WOTAN'S WEDGE" WOTAN—A pagan god of war and victory from Nordic mythology, prominent since the rise of Hitler as an inspiration of the new Germany.