The Oregon Statesman

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

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Ballot Measures-VIII

Eighth measure on the ballot is a constitutional amendment sponsored by the Oregon State Teachers' association which would require the state to provide revenues for the operation of elementary and high schools in the state in an amount equal to 45 cents per child per day of attendance. Method of raising the money is left to the state legislature, but the amendment would lift the six per cent limitation from application to this fund.

Of the total sum \$8,000,000 must be applied to reduce local property taxes until the year 1950: after that the legislature will decide how much shall be applied to this purpose. The method of distributing this fund, which will include the present state elementary school fund and the \$5,000,000 diverted from income tax proceeds under the initiative of 1942 and the act of 1943, is left to the legislature.

When we first heard that the teachers' association was proposing a constitutional amendment for establishment of state aid we were inclined to oppose it, assuming that it would be using the constitution for legislative rather than truly constitutional purposes. A study of the amendment does not bear out that fear. It proposes to establish as a principle state sharing in cost of our common schools in a substantial amount. Since the principle would be meaningless unless tied to a figure, the amendment fixes 45 cents per child per day of attendance as the measure of state aid. This figure is arbitrary to be sure; but any figure would be arbitrary and no figure would leave the amendment empty of meaning.

Next the amendment frees rather than restricts the legislature, giving it power (irrespective of the six per cent limitation) to provide the revenues from what sources it chooses or can find; power also to determine the way the fund is to be apportioned among school districts: and after 1950 power to determine the amount of the state fund to be applied to offset school district property taxes. Thus the amendment involves one principle: a mandate for state contribution to schools in a definite amount; and secondly gives the legislature wide latitude in carrying out the mandate. The Statesman has come to the conclusion on analysis of the proposed amendment that it is entirely proper matter both in substance and form to go into the constitution. In fact, it is hard to see how that step could be avoided if the six per cent limitation is to be gotten around.

So much for the constitutional amendment point which has been raised in discussions of the measure. Now what about its merits?

In the past Oregon has depended very largely on local school district taxes supplemented by a county tax (also a property tax) and a state elementary school tax (also a property tax until very late years) for financing its schools. If school children were distributed geographically in exact proportion to assessed valuation the distribution of the burden of education would be equalized. That condition does not exist and has not for decades, if it ever did. As a result there is wide disparity in school taxation. The writer in his message to the legislature in 1939

Of the 2085 school districts of the state, 691 levy no special tax for elementary schools. For other districts the taxes range as high as 50.7 mills.

There are two ways to equalize the tax burden: one would be to consolidate districts into larger units, though subsequent changes would again bring about inequability; the other method is to provide a larger sum from the state

Editorial Comment

JUST AN IRRESISTIBLE IMPULSE

Some weeks back we were "chastised" by the venerable Oregonian for venturing the quib about the roses which Eugene supplied for the "City of Roses" in the first air shipment of produce of this region to New York city. Now we shall risk the rebuke-of our editorial brethren at the beautiful city of Salem (especially Charley Sprague) by quoting a few lines we find in Bernard DeVoto's admirable book, "The Year of Decision-1846": "In '46 the southernmost house in the Wil-

lamette valley was near the site of the present city of Eugene. Passing down the valley from there, one came to a kind of settlement, of which Lieutenant Howison, of the US schooner Shark, reported this year that 'too little exists to be worthy an attempt at description'. This was Salem, the real estate development which the Methodist missionaries had by now substituted for their venture in saving Indian souls."_ This quote is irresistible since it is only a few

years since Salem had its Centennial Pageant, and in asking Eugene to postpone its normal pageant date, a dis inguished lady of Salem wrote to this effect:

"We do not intend to have noisy displays of soldiers and cowboys and Indians and such shows to please the populace, because Salem from the beginning was a city of culture and deep spiritual purpose, etc . . .

The Salem request was granted by the directors of our pageant, of course, but not before some of the local talent had given Governor Sprague some moments of explaining "Salem's cultural aspects" All good clean fun and no lasting damage! Towns are much like people. Each town has its back-

ground, and none of us can ever claim that a family tree without a few gnarled limbs or that the finest city has grown without imperfections. What we do now is almost more important than the past. In 1946 Lane county will be 100 years old and in

1947 it will be 100 years since Eugene Skinner (also with an eye to real estate) staked out Eugene City. It is time for us to be thinking of our next pageant, and this DeVote book, in spite of its somewhat flippent comment on some parts of that per-iod, is a storehouse of suggestions.

DeVoto's description of the hardships of the trail is one of the most vivid bits of writing we ever have encountered, and it moves us to the trail" should that perhaps our presentation of "the trail" should that perhaps our presentation of "the trail" should tered, and it moves us to the thought begin planning. Goodwin Thacher, author of our they are revealed, however, they must be calculat-script, is already planning, but he can't make rea- ed in relative rather than absolute terms in as-

We have had a memorable 100 years, and an in-spiring century of opportunity lies ahead. (And we shall doubtless find some profit in Friend Sprague's suggestions). Eugene Register-Guard.

treasury and lighten the burden on the local districts. The pending amendment will increase substantially the amount of the state school fund; and if the legislature provides for its equitable distribution then there will be an evening up of the burden of school support.

Objections are raised, especially by taxpayer groups, against this measure on the ground that if the income tax receipts should shrink to prewar levels the burden would fall on property. It is true that property is "exposed" to additional burden by this amendment, but only in the event other present or prospective tax sources prove inadequate, or the legislature and the people prefer to have property assume this burden.

The Statesman suggests that it is time the people of the state looked at their schools from another angle than how cheaply they can run them. The war has brought home to Oregon school directors the fact that they have to compete for instructors. Teachers' salaries in Washington and California are substantially higher than in Oregon. The state department of education has had to give emergency certificates to scores of teachers who cannot qualify under regular standards.

Nor is the condition one which will clear up with the end of the war. Our colleges of education are almost empty of students, including women, preparing for a teaching career. Some months ago this editor made a study of the changes among high school principals and superintendents in Oregon cities. The facts, which were published, should alarm parents of children of school age. They showed our schools were becoming starved at the top because of the loss of able men as school administrators.

We submit that the time has come for the people of Oregon to face the facts. Those facts point to this, that increased funds MUST be provided for the operation of our schools if we are going to maintain even the present standards (which are none too high). To do this by taking the six per cent limitation off of local district taxes would mean that property alone would bear the whole burden, because that is lay its claim to being THE the only taxing power a local school board has.

Moreover there would then be no limit and directors and patrons might "shoot the works" for their schools and soak the railroads, the utilities and other non-resident property owners. The proposed state fund sets a limit at the same time it applies a mandate; 45 cents per child per day; and the legislature has broad taxing powers, made broader by this amendment. The additional revenue sought is not exorbitant in amount or beyond the capacity of the people to pay.

The amendment is timely; it is practical; it is just; it is necessary. The Statesman strongly urges Vote 314 X Yes.

Retort Discourteous

Under "Editorial Comment" we publish an editorial from the Eugene Register-Guard, with its quotation from a writer of 1846 who says of the Salem of that date: "to little exists to be worthy an attempt at description."

The R-G editor should pursue his reading of Oregon history farther, picking up the diary which Bob Sawyer of Bend edited, that of Lt. Henry L. Abbot for whom Camp Abbot was named, who led an engineering party on railroad surveys from California north to the Columbia river. He can find there this entry:

Oct. 26 (1855). Rose early and went 25 miles to Eugene City, a dirty place.

"Only apathy can beat us," says Senator Truman. Is that a new way to spell Dewey?

Interpreting The War News

KIRKE L. SIMPSON ASSOCIATED PRESS WAR ANALYST .

If Japan's main fighting fleet or any substantial part of it has at last been brought to action, as Tokyo broadcasts say, a major objective of American operations in the central Pacific has been at-

American reports so far speak only of Japanese aerial assaults on our carrier forces.

Tokyo claims of 50 or more American warcraft of all types sunk sound fantastic. They follow what has become an almost ritualistic Japanese propaganda practice in previous sea-air encounters in the Pacific, all of which ultimately turned out to be American victories.

It would take American confirmation to convince observers that the Japanese high command is ready to risk its jealously hoarded fighting fleet at this stage of the battle of the Pacific however. There has been every reason to credit Admiral Halsey's third fleet with such combined air and sea power in the East China sea area operations that nothing short of the full weight of enemy naval strength could hope to cope with it.

A full Japanese fleet concentration there would leave the central and southern Philippines exposed to the invasion thrusts General MacArthur so obviously has poised for action. It also would leave the approaches to the South China sea dangerously vulnerable from the west. There is no question that Admiral Lord Mountbatten is preparing in the Bay of Bengal theater for action coordinated with the American advance in the central and southwestern

Tokyo reports of the fight discount the probability that the sustained cross-fire air attack on Formosa is a prejude to attempted American invasion of that island. They assume with good reason that Halsey's bold strikes have to do with impending invasion moves against the Philippines. If they have succeeded in drawing such portion of Japanese naval power as have been based at hideouts in the northern part of the South China sea into action, unquestionably the primary American purpose short of the hope of bringing the main nemy fleet to decisive battle has been served.

sessing the tactical or strategic results of ship for ship in every category of air or sea, every craft destroyed or put out of action cuts more heavily into Japanese ability to maintain the struggle than into American fighting power.



'One World'

(Continued from page 1)

American party, because of its large majorities.

If the slogan is a sly implication of "America first" doctrine then it would seem to be poor politics, because Governor Dewey has been busy tossing Gerald L. K. Smith out of his car. If it was chosen to impute the doctrine of communism to the new deal crowd its accuracy may be questioned, because Earl Browder was born in Kansas, along with Claude Ingalls of the Corvallis G-T and me. I expect to "vote republican" but I know that many good "Americans" are going to vote democratic.

Then there's another sign going up around the state. It shows the head and tall black hat of a Prohi, like the cartoonist figure in the days of prohibition. The pened. caption of the sign is to defeat a return to prohibition by voting against the Burke bill on fortified wine. This sign is utterly false. The Burke bill is not a prohibition bill. It merely transfers the permitted sale of fortified wines from private package stores to state stores.

The truth is that if the liquor business goes unregulated and uncontrolled the resulting condition will invite a return to prohibition. If sale of fortified wines in state stores can help clean up some of the evils growing out of its promiscuous sale that in itself would help avert a return to prohibition.

The object is plain; the wine interests want to raise a false issue to help defeat the Burke bill, so they drag out the old Prohibition figure, when in fact it is still buried.

Then there are other signs. Some one called up and asked if I had seen the "Send Mr. Smith to Washington" billboards. I hadn't. "They don't carry the party label, democratic," I was told. I see now that they don't, which may imply that Mr. boards.

"THE YOUNG IDEA"

News Behind the News

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 16-Good old Dan Tobin's gentlemen of the teamsters union are prepresumed to have become so effulgent at the

opportunity of becoming the first audience be addressed by Mr. Roosevelt in opening his campaign in the usual partisan sense that

they beat up a couple of naval officers who had straggled into the Statler hotel here after the speech.

The officers were looking for dance to which they had been invited, the beating being administered because they did not have politics on their minds and declined to answer courteously the inquiries of the teamsters as to whether, as navy men, they intended to vote for Roosevelt.

That is the way it has been resented to the public, and left, but that is not the way it hap-

The teamsters did not assemble here for union business purposes of their own. Nor did they come voluntarily to cheer Mr. Roosevelt. They were ordered to Washington by Mr. Tobin for the special and sole purpose of becoming a background for the president's "first" partisan effort.

Many of them were drafted all the way across the country by their union boss, and did not like Aside from the tribulations of travel these days, a few of the coast unions actually did not have the cash in the till to make the trip and sold government bonds from their treasuries to get the funds together.

These especially did not care for the honor. They cheered, as

Smith would like to have a few republican votes!

But now I see the Wayne Morse boards are up, and they lack the party label, republican. What's going on here? Aren't the candidates apt to get their lines tangled fishing in each other's ponds?

Do you still believe in signs? I don't - not political bill-

By Mossler



required, but the way they talked when they returned home, (my information comes from union sources) indicates not only that l'affaire Tobin was less of the gala political festival than advertised, but that there is dark partisan unrest within the union labor crowd that has been assumed to be wholeheartedly for Roosevelt.

The best possible non-partisan authority recently has made a check of inter union campaign trends and returned here with doubts that put even California and Washington in unsure categories. Mr. Roosevelt is holding a good portion of the CIO satisfactorily, but the AFL is pretty well split. To hold the coast he must keep the AFL.

The diverging elements are not running off haphazardly but are moving deliberately and solely on the question of what is best for their particular unions.

The Hillman leadership is distinctly unpopular among all AFL people, even those unioneers who intend to vote for Mr. R. They foresee Hillman and his associates gathering from a Roosevelt victory increasing power over all the labor movement, possibly absorbing it if he can muster the

The old Gompers political leadership was unquestionably

Today's Garden By LILLIE MADSEN

Mrs. I. T. brings to our attention the evergreens and asks if there is any manner in which she can know an evergreen. She writes that the firs are called evergreens, as are also the rhododendrons and the larch. The latter, she adds, are by no means really evergreen as they shed their foliage in the winter. Ans.: This is a rather large

order and I won't go into it too thoroughly as I might get involved too deeply. If Mrs. I.T. is a student of botany, she will know the answers anyway. If she is just a gardener like the rest of us: we accept the explanation that evergreens are those trees and shrubs which have winter-resisting foliage. Botanically, I believe, both the larch and the bald cypress (and very likely others) are termed ever- Mustering-Out Pay greens in spite of the fact that both drop their leaves. Their cones give them this distinction.

Usually we divide (and again I am speaking gardeningly and not botanically) our evergreens into conifers and broadleaved evergreens. This is much less confusing than to say "evergreens" and mean everything in the group. The firs, which Mrs. I. T. mentions, are the conifers and the rhododendrons belong to the broadleaved group.

Evergreens are a little more difficult to transplant than trees which drop their foliage. More care must be used in keeping the roots from drying out. In purchasing them, buy them with their roots balled and do not "un-ball" them until the plant has been placed in the

Home transplanting must also be done very carefully. You can't revive an evergreen that has once dried out at the roots. It is very important to give the young evergreens plenty of wa-ter the first summer after they are planted. Watering should also be done in the autumn. Don't depend upon the rains. The top soil may look wet—and may be wet—but the soil at the received in frequently still dep.

THE THE STREET STREET

IN FRANCE, Oct. 9-(Delayed)

where they had Kenneth L. Dixon

The puffing French freight

The rookies jumped out,

train halted on rolling farmland.

stretched and swore feelingly.

They had been five days and

They didn't know it then, but

they had reached the last re-

placement depot. Soon they

would cease being orphaned

wanderers of war without out-

fits and without shoulder patches

and would be adopted by some

combat line company to replace

bags and rifles down along the

right-of-way, they cocked their

ears toward the sound of distant

firing. It had a strange, new un-

dertone, different from anything

Suddenly they realized why.

Western front artillery lanyards

are not yanked for practice. For

the first time they were hearing

guns being fired in concerted

Pvt. Kenneth F. Baxter, Chi-

cago, stretched his six-foot frame

again. His 37-year-old bones

were cranky from the wet, cold

weather despite a year of army

life. Towering above the other

soldiers, he served as a beacon

for his three sidekicks, who

The Chicago rifleman, former

bartender, grocery store manager

and defense plant supervisor,

was the oldest in both age and

army experience. The others had

The youngest was 19-year-old

Pvt. Paul Bernhart, Burlington.

Ia., farm boy. But Pfc. Billy

Boren, 20, five-foot five, blue-

eyed, brown-haired Evansville,

Ind., steel worker, looked even

The fourth Pvt. Hardin Ben-

They met at Fort Meade, Md.,

"Wonder how much longer we

"Wonder if we go up tonight,"

"I don't reckon so," drawled

For a moment they were silent.

Billy said, chewing a blade of

Benton. "Seems like they'd let

us wait until tomorrow anyhow."

the wisest union labor has en-

joyed in all its history in this

country. His counsel was to make

both republicans and democrats

equally amenable to labor influ-

ence. He refused to endorse fully

even such a purely labor third

party attempt as the elder late

Senator LaFollette made in 1924.

in the odds that sooner or later.

by strictly partisan political

alignments, labor would one day

suffer political defeat and do its

major interest irreparable dam-

age. Even as far as matters have

gone in this campaign, it is evi-

dent that AFL will have Wash-

ington backing to assume leader-

ship in labor to the detriment of

Personally I do not fully ac-

cept yet the evidence that the

strongest class support Mr.

Roosevelt enjoys is critically

breaking up, but certainly the

evidence is sufficient to warn of

CIO, if Dewey wins.

The wisdom of this course lay

came overseas together in July,

and bivouacked together at a re-

stay together," Baxter was think-

placement depot in Italy.

ing as the others came up.

grass.

ton, 25, North Wilkesboro, NC,

had been a farmer and lumber-

been in less than nine months.

promptly joined him. #

they had heard before.

Easing their packs, barracks

nights in the cold cars.

from faraway

American farms

and factories,

but like thou-

sands of other

replacements

and the famed

backward - fly-

ing dodo bird,

they never

knew where

they were go-

ing but only

its casualties.

anger

4 Rookie Rifler Arrive at Wester Front for Action

The artillery dominated the at-

-(A)-Four more rookie riflemen have reached the western front "Guess we'll be pretty scared," said a nearby soldier.

"Of course we're gonna be." said Billy. "That wounded sergeant on the train said everybody is scared. I'm no different from everybody."

"Wonder where the front really is," said Billy. "Cripes, they never tell you anything. You never know anything."

"Well, I reckon you can bet one thing-we all are going right into the line," said Benton, rolling over and pulling his billfold from his pocket. He looked at his pictures a moment.

'I sure wish I could see my wife and kid again first." Then a soldier walked past swinging mess gear.

"Come on," he called. "First hot chow in five days." They still didn't know where they were going or when, but for a while the sound of rattling mess gear along the chow line drowned out the noise from the battle line.

The Literary Guidepost By JOHN SELBY

"FOREVER AMBER," by Kathleen Winsor (Macmillan; \$3).

It may be a little dangerous for a publisher to be forever trying to repeat a formula, but Kathleen Winsor's publisher has got off easier than most, this time. It was he who lost his dignity and forsook what his rivals called stuffiness when chance put "Gone With the Wind" into his hands. He has struggled to find another example of Miss Mitchell's formula ever since, without conspicuous success, and now he has something promising in Miss Winsor's "Forever Amber." The proof of this is a first printing of 100,000 copies, last time I made inquiry.

Miss Winsor's story has to do with a promiscuous woman at the time of the Restoration. Amber (like the heroine of so many cloak and sword romances) was really the daughter of noble parents but she lived in a lowly village, cared for by lowly villagers. And then some plumed -cavaliers rode through the village on their way to London and the celebration which attended the return of Charles II, and Amber rode to London with one of them. Amber loved London, and after some rather hectic adventures (in which her true love for the chap who first allowed her to exercise her talents on him was wrenched about quite a lot) Amber saw clearly her

Her way led, not smoothly, to a position as Charles II's favorite.

It is absurd to try in this space to summarize Miss Winsor's 972page book, all the pages of which I have not read anywaynor has anybody else who does a daily book column, no matter how fast he reads, except he cheated on some other books. As a matter of fact, I doubt that many cash customers will read all about Amber, because there is a kind of repetitive prodigality about the book that encourages skipping. And there is too much evidence of researchgreat chunks of something suspiciously like condensations from the authorities on the Restoration are thickly sown throughout. But I liked Amber's wonderful quality of exuberance, and admired excessively the industry of the author. The book will be popular, but for me it was like trying to eat a 30pound watermelon at a sitting.

American elm trees are valued the possibilities of a November at more than \$750,000,000, according to forestry experts.

Veterans' Rights and Benefits

Daily in this space will be published a portion of an official pamphlet giving information on the rights and privileges of war

As a veteran discharged under honorable conditions, you automatically receive mustering-out pay from \$100 to \$300 to help tide you over the immediate period after your discharge and to aid you in your necessary readjustment to civilian life.

Those who served less than 60 days receive \$100; 60 days or more, but no foreign service, \$200; 60 days or more, and foreign service, \$300. Certain groups are excluded, such as those receiving base pay (not counting fogies) of more than \$200 a month at the time of their charge. Any eligible veteran discharged before this law was passed may obtain payment by applying to his own branch of the

