

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY
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Suits for Back Pay

Based on findings of the supreme court in a recent case suits are being filed against corporations which threaten to run into billions of dollars. Alleged to be due is back pay at overtime rates, plus penalty (double or treble) for having to sue.

The wages and hours act requires concerns in interstate commerce to pay wages at time and one-half for all time in excess of 40 hours worked in a week. Prior to 1940 the limits were 42 and 44 hours. In complying with the act most companies went along on the former method of computing time which made no allowance for time spent in punching the time-clock or getting to one's station in the plant. In a Michigan case the supreme court held that this was time to be compensated for. Hence the flood of lawsuits.

Here is a case where the penalties seem excessive. Compensation always was figured on the basis of time worked, not on time spent getting to the job. To reverse long-standing custom years after the event and to multiply the claim certainly lays a heavy burden on industry. The result will be for the future that much less time spent in productive work, because employers will avoid the excess time at the penalty rate.

New legislation may clarify the statute, and may set a limit of time on claims for back pay. It cannot however expunge liability for past back pay. The question will be fought out in courts and promises to be one of the toughest legal battles of recent history because of the amounts at stake.

The Fair in 1878

From Mrs. J. R. Hammer of Aumsville comes a copy of a program for the Oregon State fair of 1878. It is a single sheet, put out as a promotion piece for the "daily and weekly" Oregonian.

Pretty good purses were offered for racing: \$500 for a one-mile running race for two-year olds; \$250 for a trotting race, mile heats, three in five. Also listed was a trotting race for double teams.

Dates of the fair were October 10-17, which are a month-and-a-half later than at present. Slower methods of harvesting and travel probably forced late dates at that time.

In the layout of the grounds is included the Aurora restaurant and the YMCA. The former was operated by the Aurora colony, then in its prime. The layout of the grounds is similar to that at present, but now the camp ground is gone and exhibition pavilions are greatly enlarged.

"Liberty on Wheels"

Early in 1947 a special train will start on a tour of the nation giving people a chance to see originals of historic documents. Such important papers as the Declaration of Independence in Thomas Jefferson's handwriting, official copies of the bill of rights, the emancipation proclamation, the Gettysburg address of Abraham Lincoln, and Madison's notes on debates on the need for a bill of rights will be exhibited on this train.

A similar tour was made a number of years ago with the Liberty bell from Independence hall mounted on a car, with stops at many cities so people could see it. The purpose of the new tour is educational, to give knowledge of the documents and stimulate interest in these roots of our government.

No Varmints There

Wednesday's Oregonian had a new story from Louisa county, Iowa reporting that a lion and a panther were on the loose in that county, supposedly released by a traveling showman during the summer meat shortage. That happens to be the county where this editor attended public and high school. Hunting the woods and riverbottoms we never were able to turn up anything wilder than a red squirrel or a cottontail, though rarely a man-came to town with a timber wolf in a crate for exhibition. Despite the testimony of a conhunter and a Presbyterian minister we are quite skeptical of there being any genuine "varmints" in Louisa county. All we ever found were in Cooper's Leatherstocking tales.

Cities and Punchboards

Headlines like these in the St. Helens Sentinel-Mist prompted a rebuke from the attorney general: "Punch Board Tax Fee Is Increased." "Pinball Boost Talked." Having just a few months before at the suggestion of the governor advised peace officers to enforce the law against such illicit devices Atty. Gen. Neuner could hardly let that pass.

In licensing these devices the city (and sometimes the state despite its legal disclaimer) share in the operation of boards and machines which violate the law by giving a payoff in hickies or merchandise. They ought to refrain from joining in defeat of the law's purpose. Maybe the cities should be "fined" as accessories.

W. C. Fields

The only lines that W. C. Fields followed, so he admitted, were those of Dickens. That seems appropriate, for he himself seemed so much a character out of a Dickens novel. His confessed and well-advertised love of the bottle, his rasping voice, his salty earthiness made him a character in his own right.

His comedy too was authentic. Though his dialogue was not of the Bob Hope galling gun type, he had a sharp wit and could turn a response that would put his auditors in stitches.

Death caught up with him on Christmas day, after many months of illness. His going leaves a real gap in the entertainment world.

The action of the Russian commander in Dairen ordering an American naval vessel out of the harbor in 20 minutes "or else" strikes us as distinctly juvenile. He must have either been strutting his stuff and swelled up over his position or else afraid of a spanking by Moscow. With him so snooty we almost wish the American commander had delayed his lifting anchor a few minutes, and are confident nothing would have happened. The U. S. must be patient. The Russians will mature into better manners.

Congressman Rankin threatens an investigation of "pink professors." Educational institutions and professors as individuals should be spared this humiliation. Rankin's last round with a distinguished Harvard professor of astronomy gives a cue to the type of inquisition he would perpetrate. His tactics do more to breed reds than suppress them.

Another indication of the high level of prosperity in Oregon is the fact that 1946 had the fewest bankruptcies since the system was established in 1898. The total on December 24 was 213. That probably will be a low mark. We can't help but be dubious of the ultimate fate of a lot of these coffee pot sawmills we see starting on back lots and brookside.

It must seem like old times to Leon Blum to be back as head of the French government. The franc is sinking in value as it did when he was premier ten years ago, and the colonial empire is cracking in Indo-China. Probably he is glad his tenure lasts only till mid-January.

Paul Mallon's BEHIND THE NEWS

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—Liberalism is not "Liberalism" any more since election they have become "Progressives." The word "Liberalism" ill-fitted them. "Liberalism" means freedom, but they stood for a rather ruthless centralized authoritarianism in the New Deal and they favored single-minded domination of people in such totalitarian states as Russia, and political alliances with their American representatives such as the Communist dominated American Labor party in New York.

The Liberals must have been reading this column. They must have read particularly the one published August 9 which pointed out they could discontinue their search for the answer of what was wrong with the liberalism, then being conducted by their New Republic magazine now openly under the leadership of a politician who wants to go half way to Russian theories. Henry Wallace. The trouble with liberalism, I then reported, was that it was not liberal. It did not stand for freedom of individuals but for the opposite—totalitarianism.

Change Name, Not Policy
Now they have changed the name, but not the policy. They have neglected to correct their basic mistake, but wish to perpetuate it by calling it "Progressive."

This is somewhat reactionary. The term "progressive" is hardly new. It simply means progress. In all my living days as a political reporter, I never heard of a politician who did not advocate progress. No one is against it. Therefore it embraces a scope which depreciates its descriptive quality. Utopians would be a better descriptive name for them, but they lost under this title because they only talked about Utopia and doubt about their ability to deliver Utopia on earth became too widespread.

At any rate Messrs. Morgenthau, Ickes, Phil Murray, et al, decided after election to meet here in January and call themselves by a new name, "the Conference of Progressives," which, as I say, is rather hopelessly reactionary. In my lifetime, the title was used exclusively by the late Senator Robert La Follette back when the 20th century was in its teens. The Utopian ex-Liberals are thus reacting in name only to the La Follette era, which will be hard for them to do otherwise because La Follette hated and distrusted the very Communists with whom they sympathize and appease. "Progressive" therefore, actually seems to mean progress backward more than 25 years.

Russia Selfish
The reaction will be interesting in Russia which is trying to classify everyone in the world who does not want to give Russia what she selfishly wants as a reactionary, although Russia, herself, is in truth the most reactionary government in the world today. It is, I believe, the oldest. It wants to react the world to its 1917 revolution and beyond that back to Marx and his obsolete theories of 100 years ago.

Russia is really reactionary because it is the only major world government which has not modernized itself, but clings to its backward and unsuccessful ways—an economic system which has never produced comparably with the rest of the world, and a political system which has not been changed in 30 years. Britain has a socialist Labor government (Russia does not allow union except meaningless under state control). The United States has its New Deal and reformation. Only Russia has failed to progress.

Reds Reactionaries
It is evident then that the Russians and their counterparts in this country are trying to get us mixed up by false terms they apply to us and themselves. As a stench, however, can not yet call itself perfume. The truth is the Russians who call everyone else reactionaries are the only reactionaries, the only current world force against progress for themselves and for others, while the Progressives who sympathize with them are reacting away from even calling themselves Liberals.

What I would call them all is a bunch of political Barnums who cannot fool anyone any more—the aberrationist school of politics which can sell nary an aberrationist.

66 Degrees in
South Dakota

RAPID CITY, S.D., Dec. 26.—(AP)—Continued mild weather which has brought the buds out on apple trees here sent the thermometer soaring to a record 66 today, the warmest day after Christmas in the history of the federal weather bureau here.

Residents sauntered around in shirt-sleeves and fur coats looked out of place although the forecast called for a decided change tomorrow, with snow flurries probable.

Adolph Rippe said his apple tree was covered with buds, and a lilac bush and one of his plum trees are also in bud.

DRUG WORKERS STRIKE
SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 26.—(AP)—Movement of pharmaceuticals from three drug warehouses in San Francisco was halted today by pickets of the AFL Pharmacists Local 838, on strike for a shorter work week.



Senator Claghorn

Divorced Persons 'Good Risks' As Future Mates, Study Shows

CHICAGO, Dec. 26.—(AP)—A university professor reported to the American Sociological society today that studies he has made indicate that divorced persons have a good chance of being happy in subsequent marriages.

Harvey J. Locke, professor of sociology at the University of Southern California, said that interviews with 146 persons in Monroe county, Indiana, who were divorced and then married again showed that 76.7 per cent of them rated their subsequent marriages as "happy" or "very happy."

In a paper prepared for delivery before the society, dealing with a study of 925 individual cases in Monroe county, the professor said results of the 146 cases compared "rather favorably with the 90 per cent of the most happily married persons who rated their marriages in these two categories (happy or very happy)."

"The conclusion that divorced persons constitute good risks in subsequent marriages seems warranted,"

Locke said studies made by interviews and tests of 525 divorced persons indicated that "being married by a justice of the peace is not conventional and is unquestionably associated with adjustment in marriage. More than one out of four divorced men and women, as compared with one in eight married men and women were married by a justice of the peace," he added.

Varsity 'J' Has Election

JEFFERSON — The varsity "J" elected officers last week for the year as follows: president, Wilford Haworth; vice president, Gene Pilcher; secretary, Dean Abney; treasurer, Paul Specht; reporter, Bill Barnes and sergeant-at-arms, Charles Freitag.

Initiation of new members will be held the first week of the new year.

Present at the meeting were Wilfred Maworth, Gene Pilcher, Dean Abney, Paul Specht, Charles Freitag, Vern Harris, Lee Aiken, Leon Hampton, Elmer Diereks, Matt Schuldt and Bill Barnes.

Coch Pat Beal is Varsity "J" advisor.

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty

Junior! Otis! William! . . . You leave that locomotive right where it is!



Fires Result as 'Inflated' Yule Trees Unsold

extensive tree burning, too. Sales lots contained thousands of trees waiting to be hauled away. Others were burned on city dumps.

In Salt Lake City, a survey by the Deseret News indicated that 30,000 of the 80,000 trees offered for sale in Salt Lake City were unsold.

Brawn Replaces Dexterous Fingers In Opening Safe

INDIANAPOLIS, Dec. 26.—(AP)—Even Frank T. Mills, Indiana state treasurer, couldn't get to the state funds when he arrived at his office today.

The outer doors of the safe refused to budge when he tried to open them. So he sent for Carter Roach, a safe expert.

Roach took one look at the doors and then gave the handles a vigorous pull. The doors opened.

Public Records

CIRCUIT COURT
Ella M. Dickinson vs. Mrs. Charles Duval, Charles Duval, Jr., D. M. Cunningham, and Irvin J. Cutsforth. Order allowing and denying certain motions by defendant Irvin J. Cutsforth.

Vernon L. Harris vs. Agnes L. Harris. Suit for divorce filed, charging cruel and inhuman treatment; married April 29, 1944, at Chicago.

PROBATE COURT
Edward H. Hagy estate: Petition for appointment of administrator.

Peter Kufner estate: Petition for appointment of appraisers.

MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATIONS
Olaf L. Ware, carpenter, San Pedro, Calif., and Esther V. Nordstrom, teacher, Silverton.

JUSTICE COURT
O. J. Morgan, Portland, passing with insufficient clearance, fined \$2.50 and costs.

Jack Wilks, Fircrest auto court, charged with obtaining money under false pretenses, preliminary examination set for Friday, December 27.

MUNICIPAL COURT
William A. Rock, 2210 Chemeketa st., failure to stop, fined \$2.50; no driver's license, fined \$2.50.

Earl Robbins, 495 N. 18th st., running red light, fined \$2.50.

Wayne Mahaffey, 1096 Highland ave., failure to stop, fined \$2.50.

Milton Larson, Silverton, driving while intoxicated, fined \$100, driver's license suspended one year, 30 days sentence suspended.

Red Wire, Salem, parking violation warrant, posted \$12 bail.

D. F. Plympton, Portland, violation of basic rule, posted \$7.50 bail.

H. D. Lurty, route 4, Salem, charged with reckless driving, posted \$25 bail; no driver's license posted \$5 bail.

R. H. Laws, route 4, Salem, violation of basic rule, posted \$7.50 bail.

Calvin Wildt, 1017 Elm st., violation of basic rule, posted \$10 bail.

Clarence Primus, route 1, Independence, violation of basic rule, fined \$25.

Herbert Owen Hunt, 2460 Trade st., reckless driving, liquor involved, fined \$50.

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Canadians, U. S. End Dispute Over Atomic Energy Controls

LAKE SUCCESS, N. Y., Dec. 26.—(AP)—Members of the United States and Canadian delegations were reported authoritatively tonight to have settled their differences over the Baruch plan to control atomic energy.

An informed source said that the United States did not give up any of its basic principles in achieving the agreement.

The differences were said to have been mainly those of procedure, rather than fundamentals.

This agreement, if approved finally by the heads of the delegations and their respective governments, will go a long way toward a settlement of the atomic problem when the delegates of the United Nations atomic energy commission meet tomorrow as a committee of the whole for a showdown on the United States plan.

The political committee of the commission approved a draft report on scientific and technical features of atomic control at a closed meeting here today, but the major contention over the Baruch plan has remained to be solved.

Earlier, Canada's delegation had submitted a number of comments and proposals affecting the Baruch plan. These were said to have been discussed at a meeting of the "second echelon" of the two delegations this afternoon and early tonight.

Both sides were reported "well satisfied" after the long conference.

With such agreement it was predicted that Bernard M. Baruch, chief U. S. delegate, and Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton, Canadian delegate, would approve the settlement.

There is a possibility that other delegations will bring up new points at the meeting tomorrow but with Canada and the United States now in agreement the meeting is expected to be much smoother.

No Word from Reds
There still was no indication as to the attitude Soviet Russia will take in the important meeting.

By a 10 to 0 vote, with Russia not participating and Poland abstaining, the political committee today adopted every section of the draft report on scientific and technical features of atomic control except general findings and recommendations.

The commission is working against time to complete a report to the UN security council by Tuesday. Everything has been acted upon except the really essential part of the report—the commission's general political findings on atomic control, and the recommendations as to just how the atom shall be controlled.

'Annoyance Campaign' Fails to Work Eviction

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 26.—(AP)—If F. E. Aha and his wife, Lena, win this one, they'll be glad to move out of Everett Clay's duplex.

Today they sued Clay for \$30,000, stating that he has been conducting a "campaign of annoyance" against them in the hope of forcing them to move. They allege that Clay falsely told Aha that Lena was entertaining other men on the premises, hoping he could break up their marriage.

Portland Buys Planes To Spray Mosquitoes

PORTLAND, Dec. 26.—(AP)—Portland is going to make war on mosquitoes via plane next year.

The city council today approved purchase of two surplus planes for a total cost of under \$4000. Aerial spraying was expected to prove far cheaper than an infantry attack.

AT STEVENS CHILD'S CUP

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