

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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Harvest in Bulgaria

Our government has sent a protest to Bulgaria over the conviction of Nikola Petkov who has been found guilty of the crime conventional in totalitarian regimes of offenses against the state. The state department expresses its fear that in this action Bulgaria is denying rights of political freedom that were supposed to be preserved after the war settlement. Petkov was leader of the Peasant party, the only remaining organized opposition to the pro-communist government headed by George Dimitrov.

The peasants themselves in Bulgaria have met up with state action in its baldest form—the control of the harvests. The traditional method of harvesting grain in that country is to gather the crop in from the field, spread it out on an outdoor threshing floor, beat it with flails or have oxen or horses tramp out the grain. The grain is tossed into the air to let the wind winnow out the chaff and dust, after which it is stored in bins or sacked and taken to market.

This year under the new government order in Bulgaria private threshing is prohibited. The farmer's crop is taken to a common threshing floor. There people from the city assemble and grain collectors measure and requisition the grain, leaving to the producers only such proportion as they see fit.

Very interesting is the description given in a report from Sofia by the correspondent of the Christian Science Monitor on how the new order on the Bulgarian harvest works. We quote:

The Government order—and the word is literally "order"—to "mass organizations and cultural institutions is: All cultural, artistic, theatrical and other groups, wherever they may be at the moment should organize and reorganize the work for crop collection." In other words, they better drop everything and hustle to the village threshing floor before that grain gets away.

"Comrades," says the order, "successful carrying out of the food-collecting campaign will secure bread for our people," meaning for the Communists who do not produce grain. It surely will not mean bread for the helpless peasant threshing the wheat. "The campaign," the Government admits, and "the way in which it is being carried out are new to the Bulgarian peasant." And it seems to be as unwelcome as it is new. The Government says, "a great stir has been caused by it among a large mass of people."

The Government realizes that this novel way of threshing grain in the presence of "writers, painters, artists and dancers" may displease the peasants, who go home from the common threshing grounds with full empty baskets, and so has ordered the "intellectuals" to "entertain the peasants" and restore their good humor. The singers and dancers are also instructed to tell the peasants of the benefits of Communism.

It surely will take singing and dancing of unusual merit to convince the Bulgarian peasants of the virtue of communism in action on the farms. The control of the harvest however is but a sample of the extent to which totalitarian regimes go in carrying out their principle of exaltation of the state and society and degradation of the individual. In lesser degree Britain invokes authoritarian methods in its new controls for placement of workers. There may be emergency situations in which collective action or exercise of overhead authority is required, as in war; but to make the individual the pawn of the state denies the essential dignity of man. In the end through loss of individual freedom society itself suffers.

Applying the Labor Law

The provisions of the Taft-Hartley bill relating to restrictions on types of union contracts and powers and procedures of the national labor relations board go into effect tomorrow. On and after that day no new contracts may be entered into establishing the closed shop, though unions may obtain a "union shop" if the majority of workers affected so vote and the employer assents.

Drastic changes occur with regard to NLRB. It is no longer a three-man board with inclusive powers. It is a five-man board and operates as a court. The general counsel of the board becomes an independent officer, working much like a district attorney in handling cases before the board.

Now banned by law are unfair labor practices on the part of workers and unions as well as by employers. The board will have to hear complaints from both sides and arrive at its conclusions, using courts to enforce unfair practices.

At the moment the chief item of interest is the ruling of the general counsel that all officers of unions must certify that they are non-communists if the union is to have any standing before the NLRB. This is interpreted to apply both to the officers of individual unions and to the executives of the federations. The AFL executive board are expected to file their certificates, but the CIO board may not. In that event, if the ruling stands, no CIO union could complain to NLRB of an unfair employer practice. Many unions have declared their intention of sidestepping NLRB, relying on direct negotiation with employers and their own bargaining powers to protect their interests.

The Wagner act establishing the board was subjected to a running-fire of litigation. The same fate awaits the Taft-Hartley act. Some provisions may be attacked as unconstitutional. For others interpretations will be sought so labor and employers may know just what the law means.

Meantime organized labor is preparing to seek modification of or repeal of the law in congress and to use its system of rewards and punishments until it obtains changes—rewards of votes for friends and punishment of adverse votes for those who supported the Taft-Hartley bill. The labor act will figure in the 1948 elections. The public reaction will depend in considerable measure on how well the law works—whether it cures obvious evils without robbing workers of essential rights. Starting tomorrow the law enters the test of experience.

Dividing Highway Revenues

A hurriedly and slovenly written paragraph about a reported switching of funds from the Ochoco to the Warm Springs highway brings the inevitable correction from Judge Sawyer of the Bend Bulletin. He even catches us on an inexcusable misspelling of Ochoco. And instead of protesting switches of funds from one project to another as we stated the current battle of the Bend editor is against a practice by the highway commission of violating its rule for division of revenues among highway divisions by percentages and shifting funds which subsequently are not returned to the division losing them.

The judge is right, as usual, both on facts and argument—nor did we dispute his major contention. However the time may be at hand when the percentage system should be abandoned and allocations based more directly on need measured by economic benefit. This time should arrive when the primary system is completed with hard-surfaced roads, as must be nearly the case now.

Judge Sawyer says if the percentage system is abandoned he will not protest, but until it is he wants the "rules of the game" observed, which is fair. Let the commission review its regulation on allocation of revenues and not hesitate to change it if it is antiquated.

STATE TO REOPEN CASE

SANTA ANA, Calif., Aug. 20—(AP)—Prosecutor Eugene Williams announced in court today he will reopen the state's case in the Over-

ell murder trial next Monday, after Judge Kenneth E. Morrison ordered stricken all testimony regarding a ball-peen hammer found aboard the yacht.

THE SHEETS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

the public. Now that the long period of holding company trusteeship is about to end Griffith has submitted his resignation, with the feeling no doubt that, having seen the enterprise through its most difficult days, the impending reorganization offers an appropriate time for him to end his near-half century of service.

The Griffith resignation projects the question of control of the surviving PGE. A provision in the reorganization plan, which awaits only the final confirmation by Judge Fee, gives the judge power to name seven directors. Griffith and E. B. MacNaughton of the old board have resigned. The question is whether the judge will continue the remaining directors of the old PGE board or whether he will pick a new slate. To be considered in this matter also are Tom Dezell and R. L. Clark who as independent trustees of Peppo have successfully directed its affairs and obtained a maximum realization for stockholders. It is no secret that the trustees and the PGE board have not always seen eye-to-eye on the involved affairs of the holding company and its subsidiaries. The board was nominated by the trustee for the bondholders who held the voting common stock as collateral, so was not beholden to the trustees. It may be that the trustees and Jim Polhemus, the president of PGE, will agree on names to be recommended to the judge so that no controversy will develop.

The issue becomes one of public interest because of the public nature of the company's business and the wide spread of its securities. The new board will hold office only until the corporation's annual meeting. Then the stockholders will elect the board.

PGE stock will be widely scattered but probably most of the shares will go to residents of the east who have bought up bonds and to the Clark interests of Philadelphia, who, it is said, have retained substantial holdings of prior preference stock. As the stock is traded in and becomes seasoned, it will work its way west until the company becomes really locally owned as well as locally managed.

In any event there should be general satisfaction that the financial troubles of Portland Electric Power Co. which have caused so much grief for 15 years are to terminate with much greater salvage for investors than ever seemed possible in the depth of the depression.

Stolle Appointed Delegate by KC

E. B. Stolle of Mt. Angel, district deputy of the Knights of Columbus, has been seated as a delegate to the national convention at Boston, Mass., according to a wire received in Mt. Angel Wednesday.

Stolle's acceptance as a delegate makes this the first year that the Oregon Knights of Columbus have had four delegates at the national convention. The other Oregon delegates are William J. LaRoche, state deputy, and A. L. Elvin, both of Salem, and Clarence Brown of Eugene.

Catholic Hits Church Laxity

PORTLAND, Aug. 20—(AP)—Laxity of laymen and clergy participating in mass drew criticism today from a speaker at the national Catholic liturgical conference here.

"Too often the clergy lean on the pulpit while preaching and jest about collections when the offering is taken, the very Rev. Martin B. Hellriegel, St. Louis, said. Laymen, he added, often seem to show a confused idea of the service, mumble the Lord's prayer and are careless in making the sign of the cross.

There is need for a more consistent living of the Christian way of life, he declared.

Public Records

MARRIAGE LICENSE

Henry A. Miller, 46, maintenance man, and Jessie A. Bennett, 51, school teacher, both of Salem.

Lewis F. Minor, Jr., 18, laborer, and Cecil June Cutshall, 17, domestic, both of Independence.

CIRCUIT COURT

Gardner Bennett vs City of Salem and others: Plaintiff demurs to second defense and plea of estoppel and to third defense and plea of laches of defendants because, it is alleged, they do not constitute a defense.

Joyce Stahlman vs Ward Stahlman: Default order issued.

Barley A. Borders vs George Alexander: Return of defendant to writ of habeas corpus signifies his intention of producing Borders in Marion county circuit court on September 3.

LaVern B. Myers vs Dorothy M. Myers: Suit for divorce charging cruel and inhuman treatment. Married Nov. 10, 1945, at Salem.

Nellie Marie Frank Amell: Suit for divorce charging cruel and inhuman treatment. Plaintiff files motion for order restraining defendant from molesting plaintiff or children. Married Oct. 5, 1927, at Shelton, Wash.

CECIL BOND SPENCER ESTATE: J. F. Johnson, J. H. Irvine and E. E. Hill appointed appraisers.

Joseph A. Barlow: Estate: September 22 set for hearing on final account.

MUNICIPAL COURT
LeRoy W. Luke, 1815 Candlewood dr., defective lights, posted \$5 bail.
Armon B. McDowen, Salem route 4, violation of basic rule, posted \$10 bail.
Leslie A. Ream, Portland, illegal reverse turn, posted \$2.50 bail.
Richard Irvin Dales, Detroit, Mich., failure to stop, posted \$2.50 bail.
Marguerite Whitney, 1005 N. 34th st., breaking glass on street, fined \$25.
Andrew McMullin, Salem general delivery, no operator's license and defective lights, fined \$10.
Virgil L. Brown, Amity, defective brakes, posted \$10 bail.

GRIN AND BEAR IT



"I did go on a buyers' strike—in the meantime prices went up another 10 per cent!"

Vets Notified Of Claim Limit

Termination date of the war under the federal-late program of readjustment allowances for unemployed and self-employed veterans has been set as July 25, 1947, Silas Gaiser, administrator for the Oregon Unemployment Compensation commission, was advised Wednesday.

"This means that World War II veterans discharged before July 26, 1947, will have until July 25, 1949, to draw their allowances if eligible," Gaiser said. "Those discharged since July 26 last year will have two years from date of leaving the service."

With many veterans now having benefit rights under both state and federal plans, Gaiser pointed out the importance of considering expiration dates in filing claims. Both types of claims are handled through the Oregon commission's local employment offices.

Rotary Entertains Senator Ball Team

Wednesday was baseball day at Salem Rotary club luncheon in the Marion hotel with members of the Salem Senators as guests introduced by club members. Special guests were Jack Wilson, manager; George Emigh, business manager, and Ira Pilcher and Gene Vandenevde, president and vice president of the Salem Senators Boosters club. Gifts for the players were distributed by David Hoss, master of ceremonies. Later Pilcher distributed prizes for certain members of Rotary. Gardner Knapp, president of the club, presided.

City Briefs

BERTRAND BETTER
Norman Bertrand, Aurora, still in Salem Deaconess hospital from injuries suffered in an automobile wreck August 7, was said to be much improved Wednesday night.

TAKE GIRLS HOME
Dismissed from Salem Deaconess hospital Wednesday with baby girls were Mrs. Edwin Evenson, 1253 Elm st., West Salem; Mrs. Alden Addie, 971 S. 22nd st., and Mrs. Warren Hardy, 607 N. Capitol st.

STEALTH AT BALL PARK
Emma Blixseth, 633 Ferry st., reported to city police Wednesday that two white sidewall rims and two hub caps were taken from her car Monday night as it was parked in a private parking lot at the Salem ball park.

RICE AT ROAD WORK
Marion County Commissioner Roy Rice was in the Idanha area Wednesday visiting the construction site of the new North Santiam highway.

WITT HELD HERE
Floyd Witt, Jefferson, is in Marion county jail, charged with lewd cohabitation, awaiting action of the county grand jury. He is being held in lieu of \$500 ba.

He appeared in Silvertown justice court Wednesday following his arrest Tuesday night at Jefferson by a sheriff's deputy.

DRIVING CHARGE FILED

Charged with reckless driving by a Silvertown justice court warrant, Gene Carpenter of Oregon City posted \$250 bail there Wednesday following his arrest. He is to appear in Silvertown justice court, the sheriff's office here said.

NAME RETIRED

Notice of retirement from the business of McClean Transportation Co. and assumption of that of T. E. McClean & Co., were filed with the Marion county clerk Wednesday by T. E. McClean and Georgia McClean, both of 2720 Cherry ave.

MAY HAUL LOGS

C. M. Pomeroy, Woodburn route 2, was granted a permit to haul logs over certain county and market roads by the Marion county court Wednesday.

TO MOVE COMBINE

A permit to move a combine over the county and market roads was granted Wednesday to Kenneth Warnock, Silvertown route 2, by Marion county court.

By Lichty New Vocational School Term Opens Monday

Registration in Oregon Vocational school at Klamath Falls will be accepted until August 23 from prospective students for the school session starting that date. Director W. D. Purvine announced Tuesday.

New courses to open then, in addition to the present work in auto mechanics, body and fender repair and cooking, are diesel mechanics, carpentry, baking, radio repair and refrigeration repair.

Purvine said refrigeration will be possible regardless of whether those applying have been on the waiting list, because arrangements have been made for additional instructors if enrollment warrants. The school, for persons 16 and over, includes housing for both single persons and families. Mail address of the recently opened state school is box 1059, Klamath Falls, Ore.

Otto Johnson Rites Friday

Funeral services for Otto F. Johnson, 20, Salem merchant who died at a local hospital Tuesday night, will be held Friday at 3 p.m. at the Clough-Barrick chapel. Interment will be in Belcrest memorial park.

Johnson suffered a stroke early Tuesday evening at his residence, 125 W. Lincoln st.

Born in Minnesota, April 4, 1890, Johnson operated a store in North Dakota prior to coming to Salem.

He is survived by two daughters, Elizabeth Jane of Salem and Marjorie Ann of San Francisco; a son, John H., of Salem; two sisters, Mrs. Anna Fallahee and Mrs. Samuel Frazier, both of Minneapolis, Minn., and a brother, Walferd Johnson.

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MINERS' BODIES OUT
PIONEER, B. C., Aug. 20—(CP) methane gas explosion Monday were brought the surface today by members of the mine rescue crew from Nanaimo, B. C.

ELECTRICAL Appliances FOR YOUR HOME

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- Table Top Water Heaters.
- Kitchen Ventilators.
- Electric Wall Heaters.
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