

The Oregon Statesman

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

THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

CHARLES A. SPRAGUE, Editor and Publisher

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Reserves of Natural Resources

When the word "ersatz" became part of everyday vocabulary talk about a "synthetic era" sprouted. Wood, rubber and steel would fall by the wayside; chemists' test tubes would produce everything needed, some predicted. Worrying over the nation's natural resources has gained crescendo and pessimists have prophesied the United States would soon be a "have not" nation.

Factual support for these predictions is lacking, and a recent survey in the United States News shows why. The nation still has tremendous resources despite depletion at unprecedented and unanticipated rates. Extraction and processing of raw materials is more costly in time and money than before, but they are available.

The United States has magnificent stands of timber, fertile soil, unlimited supplies of coal. But only intelligent action will insure continued supplies.

Usable timber is being cut at a rate 50 per cent higher than the rate of replacement; present practices may cause some scarcity of select timber for years. Erosion and intensive farming is depleting the fertility and usefulness of much land, but adequate fertilization and reclamation can arrest such waste.

Coal will be available for thousands of years although not of top quality. However, scientists expect to make coke out of poor coal by the time supplies of efficient coal are gone.

High quality iron ore and top grades of copper are greatly decreased in supply but vast deposits of taconite, a rock containing iron, and new processes for using low grade copper insure enough of these metals for centuries. Lead supplies are low and imports from Africa will undoubtedly increase, but already lead substitutes are being used in paint and gasoline.

High grade oil is not as plentiful and it is estimated U. S. wells will produce only half what is needed by 1970. But imports, oil squeezed out of shale and sand, and synthetic petroleum will make up the deficit. Synthetic rubber can be produced in great quantities by the United States plants already in operation and officials looking forward to possible emergency requirements for rubber are anxious to keep these factories able to produce... even though natural rubber from Asia still undersees most synthetic types.

Tin, platinum, industrial diamonds, quartz crystals and asbestos must be imported now and all supplies of antimony, arsenic, bismuth, cobalt, chromite, mercury, mica, nickel, tantalum and tungsten will eventually have to be brought in.

These findings put the raw material situation in an optimistic light; the United States does not need to worry about the long range. There may be temporary shortages, but these can be made unlikely by a sensible program of conservation and liberal trade policies for importation. Raw materials may be sent to this country as part payment for Marshall plan exports. Meanwhile, the whole field of synthetics has only been scratched and the era of substitutes still seems a long way off.

Astoria and History

In an editorial encouraging the idea of holding an historical pageant at Astoria the Astoria-Budget puts in this boast:

"Astoria has more history than the rest of Oregon put together, and we need to capitalize on it."

Oh, yeah? Is that so?

What about Oregon City, the capital of the provisional government? and Champoe, where local government was organized? and Salem, seat of the first missionary settlement and territorial and state capital? And Portland, which forged ahead of earlier rivals? And Jacksonville and Table Rock and Canyon City and The Dalles? Astoria has to throw a lot of rocks into the balance to equal the weight of all these centers of Oregon history, and others that might be added—Port Orford, Baker, Wallowa valley, Umatilla.

Astoria has claims to be sure. Lewis and Clark wintered on Clatsop Plains. The Astor party established its trading post there. It is the only part of the Oregon territory which ever was surrendered to the enemy (to Great Britain in the war of 1812); and was near to the spot shelled by a Jap submarine in the late war. So it has a great deal of history that might be portrayed beautifully in a pageant, even if the A-B's boast is far too extravagant.

Eugene, which was the place that Joaquin Miller got run out of in civil war times, has made a big success of its historical pageant (when it didn't rain), and Astoria should be able to exploit its rich material successfully if it is made a community enterprise. It might give the salmon a break for the upriver spawning beds too, by diverting attention from the salmon derby.

Housebuilding in Southern California

A housebuilding boom is in progress in most of the cities and towns of the country but as usual Southern California's is on a bigger scale. According to the report of a Los Angeles housing committee the residential construction for southern California this year will reach a total of a billion dollars. For the first nine months 39,000 new homes have been built at a cost of \$860,000,000. In Los Angeles the amount expended for this purpose was about \$318,000,000.

The committee report says that the houses so far built this year if put on 50-foot lots side by side, would line both sides of a street 200 miles long and provide housing for cities as large as Sacramento or Albany, N. Y. It estimates that 175,000 more housing units will be required by the end of 1948 to take care of the expanding population.

One wonders how long southern California can continue to be the magnet attracting people from all over the country. How long will its water supply hold out, and its resources for sustaining such a large population?

Lt. Philip Mountbatten will wear a ceremonial sword when he marries Princess Elizabeth. But nothing like the heavy hardware of the Jap samurai sword variety.

Editorial Comment

From Our Contemporaries

HELP NEEDED HERE

West Salem, small city in Polk county just across the river from Salem, has announced preliminary surveys will be started soon for a sewage disposal plant.

One by one, Willamette valley communities and others which contribute to the abundant sewage of the Willamette and other Oregon streams are falling in line with plans for sewage plants.

But they move so slowly. Little towns like West Salem have a hard time raising the price of sewage plants at present high prices, and meanwhile the sewage in the river continues to kill fish.

Cities like West Salem and others which are showing a disposition to attack this pollution control program need the maximum possible encouragement, and we believe that state assistance is desirable.

A movement for such state assistance has been gathering headway recently, and deserves the backing of every community in the Willamette basin and on the lower Columbia, which also feels the bad effects of the running sewer the Willamette has become—Astoria-Budget.

SEALS TO ME

(Continued from page one)

program: anyone who obstructs the program is a reactionary or worse. There must be no delay in putting the program into effect, no time for thorough discussion or for seasoning the legislation. It's good for the country: jam it through.

One-party governments tend to become arrogant and arbitrary, self-satisfied, contemptuous of criticism, bigoted. Where the majority is radical a strong conservative minority is needed as a brake; and where the majority is conservative a liberal minority is needed to lighten the lump.

The old idea of a liberal lower house and a conservative upper house was not a bad idea. We got away from it when we took election of senators out of the hands of the legislature. That system corrupted state legislatures but it can hardly be said that the new has given us abler senators.

Conceivably the British house of lords can serve a purpose as a body reflecting the great traditions of the nation, conserving the ripe wisdom of the past. Not all that is new is good; not all that is old is obsolete. The labor government has yet to prove its success in administering affairs of state. It might even profit from the counsel of elder statesmen and of the house of lords.

Final Rites Friday for C. W. Aronson

Funeral services for Charles Wesley Aronson, 33, former Salem resident who died in Vermont November 7 following an accident, will be held from 10 to 11 a. m. at the Rev. Cora Gregory officiating, with concluding services in Belmont Memorial park.

Marion post 661, Veterans of Foreign Wars, will conduct ritualistic military graveside services at the cemetery.

Aronson is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Toby Aronson of 550 Highland ave. He was born in LeSueur, Minn., April 17, 1914, and moved to Salem with his family in 1920. He was graduated from Highland grade school and Salem high school and was a member of the Salem flying club. He enlisted in the navy here in 1942, and served throughout the war and until a short time before his death as a motor machinist.

Surviving besides his parents are a daughter, Delores Jean Aronson of Salem; three brothers, Walter Aronson of Cloverdale, Ore., Donald M. Aronson of Chicago, Ill., and Andris Gust Aronson of Salem; and three sisters, Mrs. Kay Curtis of Riversdale, Md., Mrs. Alberta Pfeiffer and Beverly Aronson, both of Salem.

Public Records

DISTRICT COURT

Gale William Sherwood, Detroit, executive loan length, \$10 fine suspended on payment of costs.

Ethel McIntire, Salem route 4, box 246, charged with possessing, displaying and operating a game of chance, trial set for December 9 following plea of innocent.

Wilbur Arthur Runner, Salem route 2, improper use of dealer's license, fined \$20 and costs.

Harry Almo Robinson, 2214 N. Front st., no motor vehicle license on trailer, fined \$5 and costs.

James J. Huddleston, Aumsville route 1, failure to send child to school, continued for plea to November 21.

Ed Edward Bartolomew, Eugene, passing with insufficient clearance, fined \$5 and costs.

Harold A. Moway, Alsea, charged with driving while intoxicated, found innocent by jury trial.

PROBATE COURT

Julia M. English estate: Report of sale of real property filed.

W. L. Murray estate: Estate appraised at \$12,000.

Dora J. Smalley estate: Order appointing J. E. National Bank of Portland executor and Jacob Fuhrer, Leo J. Page and Helen W. Gallagher appraisers.

Margaret Jess, also known as Hartvikke Margrethe Olsen Jess, estate: Estate appraised at \$1,700. Order for sale of personal property filed.

Evelyn Lewis estate: Order directing expenditure of funds for administration, funeral expenses and claims.

MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATIONS

Sidney A. Smith, 24, furniture repair man, 685 S. 18th st., and Ellean A. Fisher, 20, typist, 1035 S. Commercial at both of Salem.

Joseph Lewis Harter, 31, carpenter, and Eleanor Alice Titus, 28, typist, both of Salem.

Raymond Boedighimer, 22, student, Station, and Vera Rosalee Hasler, 20, hair dresser, Sublimity.

W. O. Hutchins, 22, salesman, Salem route 8, and E. Betty Grant, 22, telephone operator, San Jose, Calif.

Clarence P. Ward, 18, laborer, and Lorna Marie Dunagan, 17, secretary, both of Scotts Mills road.

Robert Clair Warren, 22, student, 478 N. High st., and Shirley Jean Hall, 19, department store employee, 455 S. 15th st., both of Salem.

Thurston Pierce Gilchrist, 26, plumber, Albany, and Virginia Coates Moss, 26, stenographer, 1243 State st., Salem.

CIRCUIT COURT

Marion E. Watson vs Gordon Watson: Default order entered.

Estelle M. Furush vs Lynn Furush: Plaintiff files answer admitting and denying.

Catherine Sherwood vs Henry Sherwood: Decree issued modifying original divorce decree regarding custody of a minor child.

Anna Rose Asbury vs Ralph Hubert Asbury, Jr.: Suit for divorce charging cruel and inhuman treatment. Married Dec. 10, 1946, at San Francisco, Calif.

Silverton Justice Court

SILVERTON—Bryce McClaskay pleaded guilty to a charge of assault and battery in the local court on complaint of his step-mother, Mrs. Ida McClaskay, and was given a suspended sentence of 30 days and \$50 fine on promise of good behavior.

Steve Watkins was charged with not stopping at scene of accident and was fined \$50 and costs and sentenced to 10 days in jail which was suspended on payment of the fine and costs and repair of the automobile involved.

Wayne Simeral was fined \$10 for over-weight log truck.

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"Get the hidden symbolism?—It's really Molotov striking at Marshall—Now do you deny this script is communist propaganda?"

Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop and Stewart Alsop

Headquarters: Washington, D. C.

PRICE CONTROL OR NOT

WASHINGTON, Nov. 12—President Harry S. Truman must sometimes feel a little like the unhappy apple-sorter whose job drove him insane because he had to make so many decisions. For in this autumn of decision, still another decision—and this one is loaded with political dynamite—is now confronting the worried president. Sometime before next Monday, when the special session of congress meets, he must decide whether to risk congressional wrath by asking for a kind of cut-rate O.P.A. or whether to propose much milder medicine and hope for the best.

When the president called the congress into special session he spoke firmly of the urgent need for effective measures to head off the threat of uncontrolled inflation.

Yet the fact is that neither the president nor his advisers knew then what measures he would propose in his opening message to congress. And although innumerable conferences have since been held, innumerable memoranda written, they still do not know. With the Monday deadline looming close, the conference-holding and memoranda-writing is now reaching a somewhat feverish crescendo. Yet as of this writing, nothing like a final decision has been taken.

An area of agreement has been reached. But a larger and more vital area of disagreement still exists. Those chiefly concerned are the White House aids, like Clark Clifford and John Steelman, the members of Dr. Edwin Nourse's council of economic advisers, Secretary of Agriculture Clinton Anderson, Secretary of the Interior Julius Krug, Secretary of Commerce Averell Harriman, and their advisers and economists.

Some Points of Accord

Almost all those concerned with the price issue are convinced that the whole intricate paraphernalia of price control on everything from diapers to piccolos, on the old O.P.A. pattern, is dead beyond resurrection. There is also general agreement that allocation and export controls, plus credit controls, are essential. But here the area of agreement ends. For a number of the experts insist that if the job abroad is to be done, and a really disastrous inflation at home is to be avoided, some limited form of price control is urgently essential. It is argued that if the prices of a few basic commodities—food, especially wheat and meat, and basic industrial products, especially steel—are frozen, the whole economy can be brought in balance.

The lines have not hardened, but the chief opponents of this school of thought are reported to be Agriculture Secretary Clinton Anderson and presidential aid John Steelman.

Ammunition Received

They have received some ammunition from the reports of two of the ablest officials of the dead and gone O.P.A., James Brownlee and Henry Hart, whom Secretary Harriman has brought back to Washington to study the practical possibilities of reviving limited price control. For it is argued that the record of O.P.A. clearly demonstrated that the national economy can no more stay a little bit

price controlled than the lady in the joke could stay a little bit pregnant. One controlled price inevitably leads to another.

The proponents of price control argue, however, that the O.P.A. parallel is misleading. They point out that during the war years half the national economy was devoted to war production, whereas now 90 per cent is producing goods for civilian use.

Limits Suggested

Thus limited price control measured in a few basic segments of the economy can check the threatening inflation. But if these measures are not taken, the pressure will continue to mount ominously, augmented by the failure of the winter wheat crop and a new round of wage demands to catch up with the mounting cost of living. This, the price controllers argue, might spell disaster, both at home and abroad.

These, too briefly, are the economic arguments. There are also political arguments. On the one hand, it is asserted that if the president proposed any form of price control, however limited, to the 80th congress, he would be smartly slapped down. Moreover, this slapping process might crack wide open the carefully constructed bipartisan foreign policy structure.

On the other hand, the price controllers argue that the congress cannot afford to disregard the angry mutterings of the housewives. If the republican congress refused to go along with a price control program, the albatross of responsibility for the galloping inflation which would surely ensue could be firmly fixed around the republican party's neck. Moreover, unless inflation is controlled, the whole program of aid to Europe might as well be written off anyway.

Obviously the decision must rest in the end with the president himself. It is as important, and as difficult a decision as he has been called upon to make. His message to congress next Monday will show how he has decided. But it will be months before it will be possible to know for certain whether he has decided wisely.

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Aiken Returns to Office On Part-Time Schedule

State Budget Director George Aiken, who two weeks ago suffered a heart attack, spent two hours in his offices in the state capitol Wednesday.

Aiken said it probably would be two or three weeks before he resumes a full-time work schedule.

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College Offers 'State of Union' Play Tonight

By Jerold Mulkey

Campus Correspondent, The Statesman

Willamette university's speech and drama department presents its first play of the year, Thursday evening, in the university chapel, "State of the Union," which will run three nights.

"This is the first time that Willamette has given a consecutive production since I can remember," said Dr. Herbert E. Rahe, head of the speech and drama department. "This will afford more opportunity for students and townspeople to see the play," he added.

Lloyd S. Jones, director of drama at Willamette, is responsible for the direction and production of "State of the Union." "I think that this is the outstanding play in the country because it has a real message and actually names people and politicians," said Jones. Dr. Rahe agreed that it was very timely since it deals with the 1948 presidential election.

"State of the Union," already made into a movie, hasn't ended

its professional run in New York and on the road. Because of this, groups which may produce the play are limited and written permission must be secured from the copyrights. "It is a real opportunity for Willamette to give the play as well as it is for Salem people to see it," commented Jones. "State of the Union" was written by Lindsay and Crouse of "Life With Father" and "Arsenic and Old Lace" fame.

Jones thinks that a small school has the advantage of developing a drama department because of the absence of the drama clique found in larger universities. "At Willamette everybody is eligible for a part, even law students," laughed Jones. Willamette has the background and leadership for being a strong speech school and for the same reason it should be outstanding in dramatics.

The speech and drama department is planning to produce four major plays this school year with a sprinkling of one-act plays. The department also is responsible for two Willamette radio shows every week over KOCO.

4-H Club Leader Given Award in Washington

CORVALLIS, Nov. 12—(AP)—H. C. Seymour, Oregon state 4-H club leader for 31 years, is among 43 men honored by the U. S. Department of Agriculture "for services to agriculture of unusual value."

The award was made in Washington, D. C., today. Seymour retired last July 1.

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