

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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Showers A'Comin'?

Dr. Knowlton, professor of physics at Reed college, ventures the prediction that Oregon is in for a wet cycle of years. An authentic scientist, who lately received national honors for the high quality of his teaching, Dr. Knowlton bases his prophecy on a study of tree rings, the thickness of which is closely related to the amount of rainfall in a given year, and on other data. He cites past cycles of greater or less rainfall and concludes that for the next several years the "wets" will have it.

Variability of rainfall is proven by measure now and verified by other known facts. Goose lake, down in the Lakeview country, is a good example of the extreme range of precipitation. Within the period of the white man in the northwest its bed has been exposed so that immigrant trains could drive across it, and later so full of water that steamboats ran on it.

In Harney county there was plenty of precipitation to support dry farming around 1910, and valleys like Surprise valley and Catlow valley were homesteaded and the land ploughed and planted to grain. Came a dry cycle and the lands were abandoned. Now the land is given over to sagebrush, with a few wrecks of homesteaders' shacks dotting the wide expanse.

In the 1930s we had a succession of years of low precipitation, but the 1940s reversed the cycle and rainfall has been abundant for crops on semi-arid lands. The variability however has not been reduced to any pattern, nothing like the biblical seven fat years and seven lean. We can draw lines on a sheet of graph paper to show past records, but we are quite unable, with assurance, to say whether the line for next year's rainfall will go up or down. Even Dr. Knowlton admits his prediction is only a refined guess. The one thing we know is the range of precipitation and temperature since the records have been kept; and since they have been kept for quite a spell of years now we naturally anticipate that next year's weather will fall within the extremes of the past. Frequently our weather records are broken, new extremes are noted; but as a general rule the report reads that the rainfall or thermometer reading broke all records since a given year. Even when all past records are broken the deviation is usually small.

Long range weather forecasting is still far from being on a safe scientific basis. Even short range forecasts are not too reliable. It didn't rain Thanksgiving day, did it?

Permanent Pattern for Timberlands

Last July the department of the interior held hearings in Oregon on its plan to set up master units for logging of lands held in the old O & C land grant. This was to comply with the terms of the 1937 act which prescribed that lands should be administered on the basis of a sustained yield of timber. The testimony received at the hearing was passed on to Washington. Now Secretary Krug of the interior department has approved the 11 master units and the related marketing areas. Previously the Siuslaw master unit had been set up.

Judging by the news account no change was made by the secretary as to boundaries of units or of marketing areas. Linn county had protested inclusion of towns west of the Willamette river in the marketing area for the Santiam unit, but they are retained. Likewise towns on the east side are included in the marketing area of Alsea-Rickreall unit. The Statesman argued strongly in favor of the broader area for marketing of logs, and so is gratified that no reduction was ordered.

The real competition will start now as the bureau of land management starts to parcel out the tracts among loggers and millowners. The plan is that established mills or logging concerns or timberland owners with adjacent holdings of timber land will be allotted commensurable acreage of O & C lands so they can put their operations on a sustained yield basis. Timber will not longer be sold on bids. Instead the cooperating private concern will get the timber, paying for it on the basis of current appraisals. The land will remain government land, devoted permanently to timber raising.

It is easy to see how much concerned the companies and individuals now operating on or adjacent to O & C lands are over the allotments which will soon be made. To be in position to call for an O & C allotment some companies are said to have been purchasing logged off lands which they can submit as their part of a cutting circle. The prospect is that the "nomad" logger will lose out, just as did the nomad shepherd when the Taylor grazing act went into effect.

It will be the job of the interior department staff to study their problem from the standpoint of land use over the long term, tying together public lands, state and private lands as nearly as possible in natural economic units. Out of this apportionment will develop a reasonably permanent pattern for timberland control and management in large areas of western Oregon. The plan does not affect the federal forest service lands, except as tracts may be included in given areas; nor does it affect private lands whose owners do not elect to enter the cooperative plan. The forest service however, is working out similar arrangements for handling its lands.

Within a few years we shall witness a stabilization of the whole timber economy in Oregon, the private lands coming into the hands of large corporate interests or else being woven into the sustained yield program with publicly owned timberlands.

New Liquor Commission

It can scarcely be said that the composition of the new state liquor commission is outstanding. Harry Boivin, Klamath Falls attorney, is the only one with statewide reputation. Names of the others carry little significance. The cue to the type of administration they will give is merely that it will be different from that of its predecessor, though in what direction is not made clear by the governor's statement.

Gov. Hall merely states that his summary call for a new commission was based not on personal grounds but because he disagreed with the commission's policy. He does not specify what the basis of the disagreement is, so the state must await the operations of the new body to get a line on what the change means. Boivin, a personal and political friend of Hall's, will call the turn.

What will be observed is whether the new commission holds licensees under tight rein or whether it leaves enforcement largely up to local police forces, notoriously indifferent to liquor law violations.

Christmas by the Forelock

All hail the jolly Yuletide season! Trim the tree and hang the holly!

Santa's busy helpers started in early this year, before the first frost is on the pumpkin and the corn is in the shuck. Bustling around, cheeks all aglow, rubbing their chubby hands, the little elves have been carting wee gifts out of St. Nick's arctic workshops and piling them high on store counters all over Salem. The gift wares and decoration have been on sale for so long that shoppers feel guilty if they haven't begun to stock up way before Thanksgiving. The threat of being left outside looking in when Santa comes hangs heavy over their heads. Probably some individuals will wake up one morning (December 25) and suddenly realize:

"Well, for heaven's sake, it's Christmas!"
... But then, maybe they won't. Maybe they'll wake up and start wondering what the Easter bunny will bring next year.



"Stop bragging about our wonderful child to everyone you meet. Oh, they either have one of their own or they haven't any!"

State Prepares For Return of Labor Office

Arrangements are being speeded up by the state unemployment compensation commission officials for return of the farm labor office to the state employment service on Jan. 1, 1948, commission officials said last week. The Marion county farm labor office in Salem, set up as an independent agency under the federal department of agriculture in 1944, will be moved from its present quarters at 361 Chemeketa st. to the local office of the state employment service, 710 Ferry st.

William Baillie, manager of the Salem employment service office, will automatically assume local control of farm labor placements when the move is complete. The office will be directed by Joseph Wilson, working out of the Salem headquarters under Earl Lovell, director of the employment service. The transfer is being handled by the Marion county farm labor office in Salem, set up as an independent agency under the federal department of agriculture in 1944, will be moved from its present quarters at 361 Chemeketa st. to the local office of the state employment service, 710 Ferry st.

These funds do not cover transportation costs of importation of foreign workers, as was done during the war. Employers or local groups will have to bear this cost and also expenses of housing foreign and migrant workers. The state employment service will, however, continue to facilitate the movement of migrant workers into communities which need them, the commission representative said. Local and national farm labor advisory councils also will be established.

One Dish Meals Leader Meeting Set for Dec. 5

Project leaders from 13 of Marion county's 29 home extension units will meet Friday, December 5, at 10:15 a. m. at the Salem YMCA to discuss training in the project "One Dish Meals." Eleanor Trindle, Marion county home demonstration agent, will present the demonstration and will be assisted by Mrs. Ralph Mercer of the Marion county home extension committee.

Leaders trained at this meeting will return to their own units and present the demonstration in January. A similar training meeting will be held January 30 and leaders from the other 16 units will present the project for their units in February.

Training meeting will include menu planning discussion and the demonstration of the preparation of four main dishes. Lunch will be served the leaders who attend. Members of Marion county's home extension committee will be hostesses for this affair and include Mrs. Richard Chittenden, Mrs. Frank Way and Mrs. Ralph Mercer.

Thirteen home extension units to be represented at the December 5 meeting are West Woodburn, Stayton, Gates, East Salem, Roberts, Liberty, Marion, Four Corners, Hubbard, Silvertown, Lancaster, Thomas and Silvertown Hills. California produces 69 per cent of the mercury mined in the United States.

Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop and Stewart Alsop
Headquarters: Washington, D. C.

Revolts Is Bringing WASHINGTON, Nov. 29 — There have been angry mutterings in the cloak rooms before, but there are now for the first time real signs of a serious rebellion among senate republicans against Senator Robert A. Taft's leadership of the senate majority. If the rebellion materializes it will center, of course, around the price issue. For a number of senate republicans are making no secret of the fact that they regard Senator Taft's root-and-branch opposition to the administration program for inflation control as bad politics if nothing worse.



Joseph Alsop



Stewart Alsop

The revolt is still in the talk stage, and it may never crystallize into action. Yet already close observers of the senate scene are beginning to tick off the names of these republican senators who might be expected to defy the powerful Taft. Highest on the list are the names of two freshmen from New England, Ralph E. Flanders of Vermont and Raymond Baldwin of Connecticut. Already they have outspokenly criticized what they regard as Taft's "negative approach" to the price issue.

Plans for the January banquet, installation and initiation are in charge of Harry Weinstein.

This hard core of New Englanders may well be reinforced by a scattering of recruits from elsewhere. The perpetual maverick, Sen. Wayne Morse of Oregon, although an outcast from the party councils, is expected to support a positive price program on the senate floor. Another probable recruit to the rebels is Sen. John Sherman Cooper of Kentucky.

Other possible recruits for the republican price rebellion include the able Sen. Irving Ives of New York, and Sen. William Knowland of California. Edward Tyne of Minnesota, Alexander Smith of New Jersey, C. D. Buck of Delaware, and Zales Ecton of Montana, Ecton, a member of the price sub-committee for the west, received a vivid object lesson in the meaning of the price situation from his daughter and son-in-law, who were trying to live on the west coast on \$2,400 a year. Finally, Sen. Arthur Vandenberg of Michigan might move quietly into the rebel camp.

Vandenberg will never trespass openly on Taft's domestic policy balliwick, but he too has undoubtedly heard from industrial Michigan echoes of the mounting anger about prices. And he is in a better position than most to judge what five dollar wheat might do to American foreign policy.

Largely Speculative This listing is, of course, largely speculative. Yet if even a dozen or so senators openly defied the Taft leadership on the price issue, that would amount to the first really serious break in republican senatorial ranks. The episode of last week's republican conference illustrates why such a break is now a serious possibility.

At this conference the Flanders-Baldwin group urged that the price issue would certainly decide next year's election, that the republicans must avoid merely whittling down on the Truman program, and that they must emerge instead with a positive republican program. Taft seemed to agree. Yet immediately after the conference, he announced his intention to whittle away still another Truman item, that calling for controls on the feeding of high-priced cattle. Hard feelings resulted, and they have not been soothed by an editorial in "The Republican News" written by a fatuous Republican Chairman Carroll-Recce. The editorial is captioned "A Cop in Every Kitchen," and it consists of furious semantics about "totalitarian methods."

Proposal Indicated The kind of program the republicans moderates would like to substitute for this unrewarding rage was indicated in the report of the Flanders-Baldwin subcommittee of the joint committee on the economic report. This report suggests many of the measures proposed in the Truman message. It suggests further that meat be rationed immediately, and that price controls, rather than being angrily discarded in the Taft manner, be held in reserve as a reluctant last-ditch weapon in the fight on high prices. It is interesting that this program is much like that proposed by the middle-of-the-roads among the president's advisers, who were finally overruled by the president when he decided to go the whole hog for rationing and price control.

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