

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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"Wheat, Wheat, Wheat"

One of the better novels published about the turn of the century was "The Pit" by Frank Norris. It was a story about the old Chicago board of trade, the "old" board before trading was regimented by the government, when big traders like Leiter and Jim Patton ran their corners in grains, when trading was ruthless and battles were finish fights. The hero of the novel was a "bull" who cornered the wheat market, only just when he had his corner just about completed wheat started flooding in from everywhere. The rolling in of "wheat, wheat, wheat" broke his corner and ruined the trader—with the recovery of his wife's love serving as the compensating factor to give the story the conventional happy ending.

Something of that fictional experience seems to have occurred lately in the wheat market in Chicago where prices of futures have fallen nearly 50c a bushel since the peak of \$3.13 in January. Where has the wheat come from? From farms and warehouses all over the wheat-growing sections. Farmers, many of them, had tried to be smart. They held a lot of grain over to 1948 so as to avoid paying a high income tax. After the turn of the year they began to sell, and markets weakened.

Also estimates of domestic consumption went awry largely because of the falling off in use of wheat for feeding livestock. Under government pressures wheat-for-food was cut down sharply by poultrymen and livestock growers. The high price also discouraged feeding, for pouring \$3 wheat into meat animals is pretty risky business. The wheat thus conserved came on the market too.

But the future prospect also had its effect. The great southwest showed improving crop conditions after the severe fall drought. Much heavier plantings were reported in states east of the Mississippi and north of the Ohio, regions which produce more wheat than the public realizes. Then the heavy winter snows gave protection to winter wheat and assurance of good moisture for spring growing. World prospects are also more favorable than a year ago.

Again, the flood of "wheat, wheat, wheat" broke the market, and the scenes in the board of trade were somewhat reminiscent of the old days when the wheat pit was a jungle and its rules, aside from its simple rules of trade and settlement were the rules of the jungle.

The market break however can be over-played. The world is still hungry for bread. There are mouths for every grain of wheat that can be grown. Lacking are the buying power and the means of transportation. Farmers still need to grow grain—and statesmen and economists need to see how it can be distributed to meet the hunger of the world.

"Plow that Broke the Plains"

Speaking of wheat and the need for its continued production one might refer to the important part played by the lands in the high plains country—western Kansas and Nebraska, and the Dakotas, and eastern Colorado, Wyoming and Montana. A dozen years ago the government had a movie made, entitled "The Plow that Broke the Plains." It showed the havoc wrought by wind in that light soil area—fences and roads drifted full of dust-banks, homes abandoned. The scenes were those of utter desolation—the reversion of land to desert. The moral was obvious: the sod should never have been broken; the lands should be restored to grazing.

Well, if adventurous farmers had not violated this preachment of the soil conservators there would have been much more hunger in the world than there has been the past several years. Under the temptation of high prices farmers—maybe they were only speculative, suit-case farmers, went back into the short-grass country, and seeded wheat. They gambled on the weather—and won. Abundant rains kept the soil from blowing, made the seed to sprout and the stalks to grow and produce great quantities of wheat. The experts were confounded, though they doubtless persist in the view that the land will revert to desert if cultivation is continued.

Much has been learned however about tillage methods in light soils. The plow is pretty much in the discard. Light cultivators or discs stir the soil, leaving as much straw, trash and clods on top as possible to retard blowing. Tractors permit faster work when the soil conditions are just right.

It is too early to say whether the high plains are permanently reclaimed for cropping; but the whole world has benefited by the wheat turned off of the acres once used as warning scenes in "The Plow that Broke the Plains."

State Parks

The Astorian-Budget is critical of the state highway commission for giving Clatsop county citizens the "brush-off" with reference to acquisition of old Fort Stevens as a state park. There may have been some mixup regarding a hearing on the question, though the commission is usually exceedingly tolerant in giving audience to individuals and groups. As for taking over Fort Stevens as a state park the commission lately extended itself to acquire Tillamook head in Clatsop county for a park and undoubtedly felt that was all it could do in that area at the present time.

Fort Stevens would be an interesting acquisition but would call for considerable expenditure by way of maintenance. With the very urgent demand for modernizing the highway system the commission feels it must conserve its funds and not go in too heavily on parks because of the continuing expenses involved. They are not unmindful of opportunities as their recent acquisition of Tillamook head and taking over of Silver Falls recreational areas prove.

Perhaps Clatsop county could take over Fort Stevens and maintain it as a county park. That would be legal.

Taxicab Ordinance

A pending city ordinance will provide improved regulations for taxicabs. Meters are required which will show passengers the amount of their fare, thus preventing overcharging. A solution is offered for the vexing question of taxi-stands. Instead of barring taxis from downtown stands the council can issue permits to cab owners covering special spots. Prior approval of owner or tenant of the business in front of the proposed stand is required; and the cab-owner must pay the city \$10 a month if his stand is within the parking meter district or \$25 a year if outside.

This seems a reasonable solution to the issue. Cabs should have a regular parking spot for the convenience of patrons; and the permit system will prevent unseemly scramble of competitors for the same space.

The ordinance deserves to be adopted. If it doesn't work out in practice then it may be altered.

German workmen have been striking, allegedly for bigger food rations. At the same time the British occupation commander offers British troops to German state governments to enforce food collections from German farmers. This presents a poor picture to Americans who are being taxed to contribute food-stuffs for Germans and others. The foreign black markets are fed by supplies from farms, the producers evidently feeling little obligation to give succor to their famished countrymen. The European breakdown is moral as well as physical; and moral as well as physical recovery is needed to restore health.

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"He's forming a new party—he's aiming for the guy that always expresses 'NO OPINION' in the public opinion polls!"

Fines Herald Police Drive to Aid Pedestrians

One driver paid a \$10 fine and two others posted \$10 bail each in municipal court Saturday on charges of failing to yield the right-of-way to pedestrians as Police Chief Frank Minto announced inauguration of a drive on careless drivers.

Prevailing ball on the charge before the campaign was either \$2.50 or \$5. Minto pointed out that automobile drivers are required by law to make a full stop to permit pedestrians to cross streets when walking in designated crosswalks. Pedestrians, he said, have the right-of-way as soon as they step from the curb onto the street.

The section of state law governing auto-pedestrian traffic reads: "Persons who are walking across streets have the right-of-way over motor vehicles if they are walking lawfully within crosswalks whether the crosswalks are marked or not. Pedestrians do not have the right-of-way when crossing at other points or 'jaywalking.' When traffic is controlled by police officers or by traffic signals, pedestrians must obey the direction of such officers or signals."

Taxistand Bill On City Council Docket Monday

Taxistands in Salem's downtown district which for more than a year have been a subject of controversy will be at stake in an ordinance bill before the city council meeting at 7:30 p.m. Monday in the Salem Chamber of Commerce.

Also on the agenda are bills affecting street lighting, new city territory zoning and setback lines on South Commercial street. The pending taxi legislation is a bill amending the requirement of meters in taxicabs to the city tax operations law and amending the law to establish and control taxistands. City-designated taxistands were abolished last year after parking meters were installed and proposals for tax and city bus terminals never materialized. Stands Regulated Under the newly proposed amendment, the city council could set aside taxistands by permits to taxi owners and could charge a fee for each stand of \$10 per month within parking meter areas or \$25 per year outside parking meter areas, but issuance of such permits would be subject to these restrictions:

No more than one taxistand per street block except at bus or train terminals; written consent to the taxistand by occupant of first floor of facing building or by property owner or lessee if no such occupant or by manager if building is a hotel; stand to be used only by taxis of company holding permit; police to enforce the ordinance and council may revoke permit at any time without notice.

Another bill before the council would raise an additional \$4,500 in fees from Portland General Electric Co. City Manager J. L. Franzen has informed councilmen he will have a recommendation on downtown street lighting improvements, similar to the brightening of High street last year, which the additional fee will finance. In September, 1946, PGE's license fee was raised at the company's suggestion from \$12,000 to \$22,000.

Set Fee Figure The bill now pending sets the fee figure at \$26,500 and applies to each and every public utility selling and distributing electric energy in Salem for heat, light or power purposes.

A bill to create 50-foot setback lines on both sides of South Commercial street from Mission to Hoyt streets will be back in the council Monday, following study by Alderman Howard Maple who last month asked delay on the legislation affecting his ward. D. A. Fish had protested to the council that no assurance was being given property owners

Year's First 2 Filings Made For City Posts

The year's first two filings for city offices were entered Saturday morning in the city recorder's office by Paul H. Hauser, seeking re-election as treasurer, and William Harvey Crawford, candidate for municipal judge.

Hauser first became treasurer in 1937 and has been re-elected each two years. He resides at 925 Saginaw st.

Crawford opposes W. W. McKinney, incumbent judge, who has announced his candidacy. Crawford has served for several months as pro-tem judge, acting during absence of McKinney. His campaign statement reads:

"If I am nominated and elected, I will, during my term of office, give full time to official court business. Through experience as pro-tem judge, my position is that this assignment must not be measured in terms of budget money available. Depriving people of liberty; assessing financial burdens; standing impartially between police and the public is a grave responsibility not to be gauded and mislead, but demanding competent full time service. Practical experience with many human problems not merely question of law is essential. Much time, frequently is needed properly to appraise possible guilt, then assess punishment within wide permissible ranges."

PHILLIPS—To Mr. and Mrs. William L. Phillips, Jr., 1055 Electric st., a son, Saturday, February 7, at Salem General hospital.

MOORE—To Mr. and Mrs. Andrew G. Moore, 425 S. 21st st., a son, Saturday, February 7, at Salem General hospital.

HOWE—To Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Gail Howe, 2006 N. Capitol st., a son, Saturday, February 7, at Salem Memorial hospital.

BAINBRIDGE—To Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bainbridge, Gervais, a son, Saturday, February 7, at Salem Memorial hospital.

WHITFIELD—To Mr. and Mrs. James D. Whitfield, Aumsville, a daughter, Saturday, February 7, at Salem Memorial hospital.

LIENHEART—To Mr. and Mrs. John D. Lienheart, Woodburn, a daughter, born Friday, February 6, at Salem General hospital.

MORGAN—To Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Morgan, Salem route 7, a son, Thursday, February 5, at Salem General hospital.

SHERMAN—To Mr. and Mrs. Sid Sherman, 1130 E. Rural ave., a son, Sunday, February 1, at Salem Memorial hospital.

The first known reference to cotton is in Hindu literature of about 1500 B.C.

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Salem Unit of Travelers Club Contemplated

Organization of a Salem unit of United Commercial Travelers, a fraternal organization for business and professional men, is under consideration, with a meeting called for Friday night by eight local members of the Eugene chapter.

Approximately 50 men have been invited to the opening meeting, a 6:30 p.m. dinner Friday at the Marion hotel. It is open only by invitation but officials asked that men interested contact Mrs. Gerald Brownhill, 2445 Myrtle ave.

Cliff Culp and Ray McGowan of the Eugene chapter were in Salem Saturday to aid in organization plans, and said several of Eugene's 500 members plan to be here Friday. Portland has the only other chapter in Oregon. Mel Kelley of Seattle, jurisdictional grand counselor, will also be here.

The UCT, formed in 1888 primarily as a club for traveling business men, has chapters in the U. S. and Canada. Culp noted that it is designed for men and their wives, who participate in all parts of the meetings except business. An insurance coverage is included in the organization.

Englewood PTA Lays Plans for School Carnival

Englewood PTA is making plans for a school carnival to be held February 27 at 7 o'clock to raise funds to improve the school library, to purchase a movie projector and assist in the purchase of a recording machine.

Chairmen of the committees named at a recent meeting are Ray Cates, Dorothy Daugherty, Jim Hardie, Sherman Bostrack, E. C. Cazell, Melvin Propp, Pete McCaffery, Tom Armstrong, Loren Lewis, Fred Klaus, Floyd Seaman, Lloyd Arnold, Leon Perry, E. B. Braught and Joe L. Bourne. Boy Scouts, Bluebirds and Camp Fire Girls will assist.

Harry Harvie of Albany was elected president of the Western Oregon Region Elementary School Principals' association at an all-day conference at Bush school Saturday.

Harvie succeeds Mathilda Gilles, principal of Richmond school, who presided at the meeting. Other officers elected were Calvin Martin of Newport, vice president, and Rose Haldeman of Eugene, secretary.

The association brought out recommendations to support legislation which would permit school issues to be subjected to overall vote like other matters and laws permitting federal aid to education on the basis of \$45 per child or to states showing a need for aid.

Improvement of public relations in the state department of education was stressed in a talk by Frank B. Bennett, Salem superintendent of schools. Bennett noted that teachers are charged with the education of 300 per cent more children than 10 years ago, that professional experts must be placed in schools and that special services should be made available to children who need them.

Wendell VanLoan, Corvallis schools superintendent, concluded that schools must take care of their own financial problems by district reorganization and by developing larger units of organization. Other speakers during the day included Mrs. Dorothy Daugherty,

School Officials Elect Albany Man President

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When it's time to remember those dear to you it's a natural desire to want a gift that will express the lasting thoughtfulness that you feel.

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Englewood school principal; Rose Haldeman, principal of Eugene's Whiteaker school; Amo DeBernardis, Portland director of visual aids; Mrs. Dorothea Massey, Salem, state director of physical education and Harry Johnson, director of Salem public schools curriculum.

Teachers from Marion, Polk, Benton, Coos, Douglas, Lane, Linn and Lincoln counties were represented at the conference.

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