

# The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sweeps Us, No Fear Shall Awe"  
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## Rail Wage Settlement

The railroads are running. Their workers are getting the same pay as they did last week. The government is in nominal charge but the service is the same. Now the problem is how to get the roads back into private control. The workers certainly will not want to go on indefinitely without a wage increase; the railway managers will not be willing to raise the ante over the 15 1/2c increase.

And when this controversy is settled, as presumably it will, how long will it be before another deadlock occurs and the formula of government seizure and operation will have to be repeated?

The Coos Bay Times offers a logical statement of the need for a more permanent solution to these recurring crises in rail transportation. We quote, with approval:

The government seizure in 1946 was not implemented by a court injunction. As a result there were two days when railroad service was sketchy and it was not until President Truman went to the congress to ask legislation to "draft" men to work on the railroads and to put the army on the trains that the rail unions capitulated and the strike was called off. This time, union leaders, fearing the power of the court to levy a fine for contempt, have passed the word on to the membership that the government's order must be obeyed.

All these processes, only temporize on the main issue. That issue is who shall determine the wage rate received by railroad workers and in the instant case what shall these rates be? Mediation has not settled the issue. The moral weight of the president's supposedly impartial fact-finding committee has been ignored. Unless Mr. Truman — and any succeeding president who finds the railroad wage situation in a snarl — chooses personally to make a compromise settlement, the railroad wage problem seems destined to end in recurrent national crises. We see no better ultimate solution than to impose on a neutral, national body the setting of railroad wages. Such a step is a long stride towards railroad socialization but so was compulsory setting of railroad tariffs under which the interstate commerce has final power to determine railroad rates. In a public utility as vast and as all-important as railroad transportation, private rights must be subordinate to the public good. That being the case, it seems to us that compulsory arbitration with the results binding on the companies and the employees, offers the only alternative to recurrent threats of strike and the fiction of "government operation".

## Review Domestic Laws

Last fall this column approved activities of a group of women attorneys who have been urging national uniform divorce laws. The recent Oregon supreme court decision that Nevada divorces are invalid in this state puts up the need for action on this matter.

This week, the traditionally conservative American Bar association backed a proposal to the National Conference on Family Life that the president appoint a commission to re-examine state laws preparatory to setting-up a uniform marriage and divorce code to be administered by family and juvenile courts.

The purpose of the plan, a Christian Science Monitor reporter writes, is to substitute for the old theory of "guilt and punishment" the new philosophy of "diagnosis and treatment" with a view to affecting reconciliation and preserving the family.

An executive of the conference has declared that 95 per cent of the nation's lawyers condemn the present methods of divorce procedure; the other 5 per cent are shysters for "easy money," he said. The ABA report deprecates present procedures as full of "ineffable ineptitude" and sympathizes with honest judges bound by the antediluvian machinery the law forces them to employ.

The Conference urges compatible marriage and divorce laws applicable to all states, extension of low-cost legal aid offices, and establishment of family and juvenile courts presided over by judges who specialize in the domestic relations fields. These courts would be staffed with marriage counselors, psychologists and other trained personnel who will work to check the deteriorating influence of the "American home's greatest single enemy" — divorce.

The case for uniform national divorce and marriage laws seems to be all on the affirmative. The brief for divorce-mills and Gretna Greens and ruthless lawyers just doesn't hold water when the welfare of children and maintenance of decent family living is given priority.

Congress is now considering bills to provide adequate housing and vastly expanded public health programs in behalf of the American family. These are unquestionably important to the nation's well-being.

But the strength and integrity of a family often depends on less material factors than double-constructed walls and free tooth extractions. That is where marriage and divorce laws enter the entire complex problem. Families begin with the civic license and too often end with the divorce court's decree.

If the government is going to enter the problem at all — it should and it has — then it must also consider the fundamentals, the laws which make families possible.

## The Last Word

Representative Gearhart of California, chairman of the House ways and means committee, defended his decision to hold secret hearings on the reciprocal trade agreements act. He especially didn't want any woman's groups horning in.

Said he, "I can't see that any useful purpose would be served by listening to spokesmen for a bunch of ladies' sewing societies reading statements . . . that had been prepared by the state department."

Well, the ladies snapped back with a joint statement from leaders of the American Association of University Women, the Young Women's Christian Association, the League of Women Voters, the National Council of Jewish Women, the National Woman's Trade Union League, the Women's Action Committee for Lasting Peace, and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

Said the women, "We deplore the statement and certainly hope it does not represent the viewpoint of the rest of your party (Republican). We do not deny that women sew. We do wish to remind you that women buy at least 80 per cent of the nation's consumer goods . . . furnish the manpower with which to win wars . . . and vote." And so on.

The tariff issue, they said, is too important to be hidden behind closed doors. And so on.

Representative Gearhart should have known better, shouldn't he?

According to The Dalles Chronicle the June crest of the Columbia river will be the highest in many years. Heavy rains over the week end caused floods in the Walla Walla area and the rise from rains will be augmented by runoff of melting snow in the mountains. The worst flood danger from the Columbia is on the lower river. There high water floods the lowlands and washes away banks and revetments. Less violent than the ol' Mississip' the Columbia can cause trouble when it is in angry mood.

Noting that republican presidential candidates have promised cabinet positions to the west the Portland Oregonian offers the name of Sen. Guy Cordon for secretary of the interior. That's a fine suggestion. Now whom does the Ogn recommend for governor of Oregon . . . or mayor of Portland?

# IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

situations with very satisfactory results. The Jay treaty with Great Britain in the Washington administration was sharply criticized at home, but it did settle dispute over boundaries that had hung over from the revolutionary war. Our diplomats made a real bargain when they bought Louisiana from Napoleon. After General Jackson's unauthorized invasion of Spanish Florida our diplomats secured the cession of Florida and settlement of the northwest boundary with the Spanish possessions. Diplomats settled the Oregon question in 1846; they made a settlement in the Alabama claims dispute which arose in the Civil war. It was hardly the failure of our diplomats but the war fever of Americans which led to the wars with Mexico and Spain. With Japan diplomacy failed because of the expansionist policies of the ruling party in Tokyo.

While the impasse that has developed between the United States and Russia looks tough, the desire seems sincere on both sides to avoid war. A settlement through a conference between our president and Generalissimo Stalin is highly improbable. There remains the communication between governments through diplomatic channels supplemented now by the agencies and the personalities of the United Nations. Maybe our state department should pick up Moscow's overtures for diplomatic conversations.

## Hall Orders Prosecution of Fisherman

Gov. John H. Hall Wednesday issued an order directing Attorney General George Neuner to move into Lincoln county and take over the prosecution of Winford Thompson, charged with illegal fishing.

The governor's action was taken under a 1947 law creating the Oregon department of justice.

Governor Hall said he was advised that the case against Thompson, a for-hire boat operator on the Salmon river, has been dragging along for nearly a year and the district attorney of Lincoln county apparently has failed to act. State police, according to Governor Hall, also complained they had been unable to get any action.

Trial of the case has been set for May 19 in Lincoln county.

"It also has reached my attention," Governor Hall declared, "that Thompson has bragged to friends that the officials could not halt him from illegal fishing." Hall said Thompson had been accused by state police of setting nets in the river and selling fish on the highway.

The Salmon river was closed to commercial fishing by the last legislature.

## Tax Surplus Case to Start

Trial arguments in the suit regarding the state's use of surpluses from income and corporate excise taxes will be heard Friday afternoon in Marion county circuit court by Circuit Judge George Duncan, beginning at 1:30.

The suit seeks to enjoin the state tax commission from using the surplus as part of the state general fund. The test suit was brought by former governor Charles A. Sprague.

It is contended in the complaint that these surplus funds, now estimated between \$20,000,000 and \$35,000,000, are earmarked as an offset against property taxes and cannot be used for any other purpose.

The test case grew out of Attorney General George Neuner's recent opinion that the surplus could be included in the general fund as miscellaneous receipts and subject to transfer.

## Club to Discuss Spring Plants

Discussions of a variety of spring flowering plants will occupy Salem Men's Garden club at Thursday night's meeting in the YMCA.

Also featured will be a report on the recent national convention in Atlanta, Ga., of the Men's Garden Clubs of America, by Mark Taylor, who attended and was re-elected secretary of the organization. He is a former president of the Salem club.

Other speakers will be P. H. Brydon on rhododendrons, Albert Beckman on chrysanthemums and B. F. Schreiner on irises.

## CAP Officers Win Promotion

Staff officers of Salem's civil air patrol were all promoted one rank in an order received Wednesday from CAP headquarters in Portland.

James Cannon, Salem commander, was promoted from first lieutenant to captain and C. R. Lindstrom and Wade Dickinson from second to first lieutenants. Eldon McIntosh, a new member, was appointed a second lieutenant.

Cannon and the officers will go to Portland Saturday for the annual CAP state-wide banquet and formal dance at the Benson hotel. Sunday they will attend a two-hour staff meeting.

## GRIN AND BEAR IT By Lighty



"Why can't you buy me a car like Otis got, Pop? — You always keep tellin' me you want me to have the advantages you didn't have!"

## Highway Tax Plan 'Difficult To Formulate'

The legislative interim committee on highways, meeting in Salem Wednesday, was advised it will be difficult to evolve a tax program for proposed highway expansion until highway needs are determined.

The advice came from George St. Clair, Washington, D. C., public roads administration official, who came to Salem to confer with the committee. Also attending the meeting were members of the state tax advisory committee. Rep. Ralph Moore of Coos Bay is highway committee chairman. All agreed that the cost of future highway expansion should be determined as soon as possible. Moore said the most popular method to raise highway funds, suggested in recent highway hearings throughout the state, is a two-cent per gallon increase in gasoline taxes and the doubling of auto licenses from \$5 to \$10. This would raise approximately \$10,000,000 annually, committee members said.

## Toastmistress To Nominate

Genevieve Morgan, Mrs. L. O. Arens and Mrs. James Hartley were elected to the nominating committee of Salem Toastmistress club at the dinner meeting in Nohlgren's restaurant. Election of officers for the next term will be held at the first meeting in June.

Miss Morgan who is on the staff of the state department of agriculture, was the principal speaker at the program, talking on "Grades" as applied to foods. Mrs. Hal Reeves was toastmistress and others taking part in the program were Jean Spaulding, Maris Bosch, Mrs. Herbert Simpson, Mrs. Mae Wilder and Marguerite Gleason. Mrs. Marie Ling was table topics chairman.

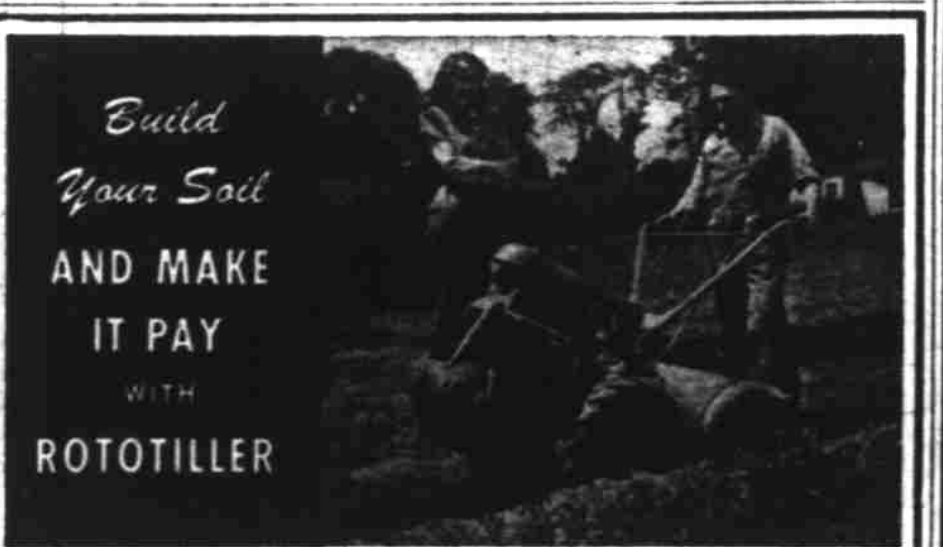
The Oregon state speech contest will be held following the banquet at Oregon council meeting of Toastmistress Friday night at Albany, it was announced. Amanda Anderson is the local contestant.

## Silence Reigns in Boommen's Strike Despite Reports

A local employer of union boommen said Wednesday "he had heard of no negotiations" between employers and striking boommen which reportedly took place in Salem on Tuesday.

An Associated Press dispatch from Portland Tuesday night said that negotiations in the four-weeks old strike of boommen had taken place here.

Edgar A. Linden, superintendent of Oregon Pulp and Paper company in Salem, said he did not believe "any of our group conducted negotiations with the union." Between 30 and 40 boommen from this area are on strike for a wage increase which includes boommen in the northwest states.



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## County Court to Contest Ruling On Cattle Test

Marion County Judge Grant Murphy took issue with the state agriculture department Wednesday on the law regarding compulsory testing of cattle for Bang's disease.

The judge took exception in a letter to be mailed today to M. E. Knickerbocker, chief of the division of animal industry in the department of agriculture, with his recent interpretation that certain sections of a county cannot be exempted from complying with the testing law except by petition of a majority of county cattle owners.

Judge Murphy contends that the Bang's testing program can be applied to "the whole or part of a county on petition of 100 stock owners." The judge based his claim on Oregon law involving, asserting that the section relative to a majority of stockmen applies only when an area contains fewer than 100 cattle owners.

He added that the Marion county court chooses to stand on this basis until an opinion from the attorney general changes it or until it is tested in the courts.

Meanwhile the court Wednesday signed the order declaring that beef as well as dairy cattle shall be included in the county's Bang's disease testing program. The order will take effect July 1 in all the county except an isolated mountainous section in the Abiqua basin.

## Adult Scouters, Wives to Visit Seattle Meet

Seventeen adult scouters and their wives from the Cascade area Boy Scout council will attend the 38th annual national scout council meeting in Seattle May 19 and 20.

Hollis Smith of Dallas, council president, and William L. Phillips of Salem, member of the regional executive committee, are the council's representatives. They will take part and vote in all official convention actions, resolutions and motions.

Others who are going from Salem Tuesday include Scout Executive Gordon Gilmore, Mr. and Mrs. Walter J. Scott, Mr. and Mrs. Gardner Knapp, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Bowers and Mrs. Phillips.

Also planning to attend are Mr. and Mrs. Harry Michelsen of Albany, Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Lantz of Woodburn and Mrs. Smith of Dallas.

Gilmore said that more than 2,000 scout officials are expected to be present at the convention — first one to be held in Pacific northwest. At the same time re-

tion 14 will also conduct its annual meeting of 26 member councils.

Topping the list of prominent scout leaders at the national convention Gilmore said, will be Lord Rowallan, M. C., chief scout of the British Commonwealth and empire and a member of the international scout committee.



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