

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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Soil Exhaustion Threatens Latin America

Soil exhaustion threatens doom for Latin America, in the opinion of William Vogt, chief of the conservation section of the Pan-American Union. Writing in the June Harper's Magazine he says:

"All except three or four Latin American countries are overpopulated. They are able to feed and shelter their citizens and supply water for their many needs, only by a progressive and accelerating destruction of natural resources, biological bankruptcy hangs over their heads like a shaking avalanche."

Those are strong words, and the prophecy is alarming to us of North America. We have heard much of the necessity of soil conservation at home, but little of the threat of soil exhaustion in the countries south of the Rio Grande. We are apt to think of Latin America as "virgin" country, whereas its Spanish civilization is older than that of the United States and the aboriginal natives did more tillage of soil than the North American Indians. The methods that have been followed in agriculture have been destructive of soil resources.

The great geographic factor limiting production in Latin America is the lack of level land. The countries are very mountainous except Brazil and Argentina. And on the western side of South America the rainfall is very light, so much of the land is fit only for grazing. In the Amazon basin the heavy rainfall supports forests and jungles, but when the land is cleared the rains leach out the soils.

Farming practice speeds rather than retards the deterioration of the soils. Through most of the region the "milpa" system of agriculture is followed, which dates from primitive times. The natives with crude tools would go into the forest, cut down trees, burn off the brush and start farming. When the soil's fertility was exhausted they would abandon the patch and cut out another. After a period of resting the first patch would again be worth cultivating.

This system still obtains, but the growth in population presses so hard that the farmers cannot let the land lie fallow for any great length of time. They keep on farming it, the crops get poorer and poorer, and the people hungrier and hungrier. In El Salvador hundreds of thousands of people are slowly starving to death, says Vogt, and "unless there is a profound modification in its treatment of the land, the greater part of Mexico will be a desert within one hundred years." The same fate awaits Chile in perhaps fewer years.

Added to the difficult natural conditions are the poor governments and the inadequate educational systems. The welfare of the farmers is ignored while cities draw most of the concern of administrators. Politicians yield to bribery and business influence. Even the rigid, or communal pattern of farming, re-instituted in Mexico by President Cardenas, has not proven the success that was hoped for.

Venezuela is one of the distressing cases of farm deficiency. In South America the country is rich in oil and its treasury is overflowing with royalty proceeds. Wages are high in the oil fields, but away from the cities and the oil development the people suffer for lack of food. Actually much of the food consumed is imported. Just now the Nelson Rockefeller organization is trying to spread education in agriculture and stock-raising so that Venezuelans will produce more or all of the foods they require. That however is a slow process. The people are averse to change.

If these conditions grow worse the consequences will be bad for the already impoverished people. The recent uprising in Bogota attracted mobs of the poor to engage in looting the stores. Revolution thrives on human distress; so the poor outlook for production of foods gives promise of greater rather than less instability among our Latin American neighbors.

Obviously a major effort at the spread of knowledge of good farming practices is essential. Demonstration farms should accomplish results. Training of men to teach agriculture in local schools would give a quick spread to information about better farming.

A slowing down of the population increase would reduce pressures on food supply, but the Catholic church, which is dominant in Latin America does not countenance birth control. And as knowledge of sanitation spreads and better facilities for treating disease the longevity of the people is increased, adding to food requirements.

Perhaps Mr. Vogt paints too dark a picture. Reform may come faster than he seems to anticipate. But it is well for us to know the geographic, economic and social conditions which underlie a region that we may have a better understanding of what happens there. If we are really good neighbors to Latin Americans we should show it in ways more promising of good than to furnish them arms and planes to fight the reds. Better seed, better tillage, more use of fertilizer—these would be better.

Seems there has been quite a buzz-buzz in the Oregon delegation at Philadelphia over Tommy Luke's making Ted Gamble, Stassen's manager, a seat as alternate. Carl Hogg, first district delegate, was urged to name Gamble, but Carl neatly sidestepped that one. He said he wanted a man from the first district and felt since the delegation was pledged to Dewey that it was hardly advisable to make Stassen's manager an alternate.

The mid-Columbia region looks for a good crop of cherries, though there was some damage from recent storms. The Hood River News reports that the bulk of the crop has been sold to canners at 14½ cents a pound, with the price for brining not yet fixed. Now if the rains will suspend until the cherries get ripe, growers may recoup some of their losses from last year.

The McKenzie highway will be open in a few days, but it took a lot of work by snow plows to clear a way through the snow-filled cuts on the route. The Bend Bulletin ran a picture of a rotary snow plow at work on a drift about twice as high as the big machine itself. That's a scenic highway but not practical for winter use.

A high board fence around the block screens the construction of the new state office building. A Portland contractor on Sixth street is doing better for the public. He put two view windows in his fence, one for "sidewalk superintendents," the other for "junior superintendents."

Wasco, Oregon, is two-timing it these days. The city council voted to establish daylight saving time, but the farm cooperative and some local stores stuck to standard time to cater to the farmers. As a general rule, daylight saving time has been accepted with little fuss. The next legislature should make it statewide.

E. B. MacNaughton, versatile and valuable Portlander, wears a triple crown. He is chairman of the board of the First National bank, president of the Oregonian Publishing company and now is interim president of Reed college. He can carry the load competently; only we had hoped he might devote full time to the Oregonian and give that paper a positive direction.

President Truman has made it clear he is in the fight to the finish. Democratic office-holders however fear they'll be finished with him heading the ticket.

Vandenberg Coalition Big Dewey Threat

By Joseph and Stewart Alsop
PHILADELPHIA, June 22—This convention is turning out to be the decisive test of Arthur H. Vandenberg's favorite political maxim: "No man can be drafted who does not connive." The test case, of course is Senator Vandenberg himself.

The talk everywhere in this confused convention has been that "Dewey is in," since the afternoon announcement that Pennsylvania's favorite son, Senator Edward Martin, would place Governor Thomas E. Dewey in nomination. The talk is correct. But there have also been behind-the-scenes developments with considerably more potential significance than this business of the open secret of Martin's support for Dewey becoming an official fact.

House Leader Charles Halleck, for example, who was expected to plump for Dewey, is now passing the word that he will hang on indefinitely as Indiana's favorite son.

Wisconsin's political chieftain, Thomas Coleman, and his Wisconsin Senator Joseph McCarthy have already established connections with the curious political underground seeking to draft Vandenberg. They are leading supporters of Harold Stassen, and their action presages a possible transfer to Vandenberg of Stassen's strength and Stassen's organization. Through Senators Henry Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts and William Knowland of California, a similar link exists between the Vandenberg underground and the camp of Governor Earl Warren.

Points to Vandenberg

The situation in the local strawberry harvest is not exactly that laborers are too few, but that the crop is too good, according to William H. Baillie, Salem office manager of the state employment service. School children and women have responded to the "bumper" crop's demand in great numbers as in previous seasons. Four hundred newly added pickers were trucked away from the employment office to berry fields Tuesday morning to join the hundreds of others who are picked up at other points after the first morning.

Cannery field men reported that berries were running "a crate to the roof" and the yield of many fields was reported at 4½ to 5 tons per acre, compared with a normal 2 to 3 tons.

More Workers Needed

The harvest is approaching its last peak week in the valley, but picking in the Silverton Hills area is just beginning, with at least 1,000 more workers needed for two or three weeks. Pay varies from 4 to 6 cents per pound for picking.

Persons who will drive out—singly or in neighborhood groups—are especially sought, and a phone call to the employment office 9287, will secure the location of a field where pickers are needed, said Baillie. Those who wish transportation should be at the office between 6 and 7 a.m.

Tentative plans were underway for a boys' work camp under Salem YMCA guidance to pick berries in the Silverton Hills area. A meeting at the YM tonight at 7 o'clock, for boys of 12 years and older, will make further plans. Some of the boys in camp this week already are picking, according to Gus Moore, associate general secretary. Plans call for six hours' picking each day, along with recreation and usual camp activities.

Labor situation in the canneries was described as "good," with many persons signed up for jobs not yet ready to start.

Earl R. Lovell, director of the state employment service, called the bumper crop a crisis in harvesting for Gresham and Hillsboro as well as Salem areas.

bandwagon will grind to a halt and the swing to Vandenberg will then be difficult to halt unless Senator Robert A. Taft, whose adherents have already lost hope for their own man, yet remain doggedly loyal, suddenly decides he likes Vandenberg even less than he likes Dewey.

In short, the odds are on Dewey more than ever. But the final answer will come with the real test of strength between Dewey bandwagon and Vandenberg underground.

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Brief Filed in Tax Test Suit

Attorney General George Neuner's brief in the suit of former governor Charles A. Sprague to restrain transfer of surplus state income tax revenues and corporate excise taxes to the state's general fund was filed in the state supreme court Tuesday.

Arguments of attorneys will be heard by the supreme court Thursday afternoon. Appellant's brief was filed previously.

The suit originated in Marion county where Circuit Judge George Duncan held the surplus funds are miscellaneous receipts and subject to transfer. The surplus funds now aggregate approximately \$36,000,000.

The supreme court hopes to hand down a decision before it recesses for its summer vacation early in July.

Explains Dewey Tactics

This explains Dewey's tactics. Which are those of a general pouring all his resources into the battle line before the first shot, in the hope of an immediate victory by sheer massed fire power. The decision to employ Senator Martin to nominate Dewey was one instance of this immediate employment of reserves, which might otherwise have been held back for second and third ballot pushes. There have been many others. For instance, the delegations of Nevada and Hawaii, although controlled by a Dewey, had planned to give a complimentary first ballot vote to their wing neighbor-governor, Earl Warren. They have now been sternly commanded to be for Dewey from the first.

Great risks are involved in this calling up of Dewey's sure reserves, since he will have nothing left for his buildup if new strength is not recruited. The point is of course that Dewey's great immediate show of power is intended to attract that of Massachusetts, where Governor Robert Bradford has been told by Dewey to write his own ticket.

Dewey Victory Likely

Dewey's nomination is now very likely, because these bold tactics seem to be working at present. The real drumfire of Vandenberg support has just begun. However, with the announcement of Senator Cooper of Kentucky that he would vote for Vandenberg on the first ballot, other national leaders, like Senator Lodge, will shortly follow Cooper. If all goes well, meanwhile, the Stassen-Warren-Duff-Driscoll combination will be formed. Key men in important delegations will be earned, and the trend toward Dewey in delegations like that of Massachusetts will be suddenly halted.

If all this happens, the Vandenberg candidacy will have impressive strength right across the country, and a strong and expert Vandenberg had organization provided by Harold Stassen. Dewey's

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



Berry Crop Said 'Too Good' Outstripping Picker Supply

(Story also on page 1)

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Huggins Lone Candidate for Legion Chief

Charles H. Huggins, Salem insurance agent, is unopposed as candidate for commander of Capital post 9, American Legion, in the organization's annual election in July.

Huggins was nominated in a meeting of the post Monday night. Other nominations included:

First vice-commander, Sephus Starr; second vice-commander, John Kerrick; adjutant, James Turnbull; chaplain, the Rev. George H. Swift; sergeant-at-arms, James Garvin and A. G. Worthington; finance officer, Chester Zumwalt; quartermaster, Marion Lamb; historian, Irl McSherry; building committee, Hans Hofstetter and Conrad Paulson; cemetery committee, Mem Pierce.

Executive committee (five to be elected) — Lawrence Osterman, Dave Hoss, Harry Caldwell, Gene Vandeneys, Walter Kirk, George Manning, Rex Kimmell, Les Newman, Claude Martin, Merle Traut, Al Feilen, Ray Bassett and Eugene Laird.

Thirty-two members were nominated as delegates to the annual state convention in Astoria this September and the number to be elected will be determined at a later meeting.

Inspects New Hotel Furniture



Newly announced manager of the Marion hotel is E. Carrol Moran, former Portland public relations counselor, shown above inspecting some of the new furnishings which will be installed in the historic Marion hotel as part of a modernization program now under way. (Photo by Don Dill, Statesman staff photographer).

GOP Platform Planks Reveal Support for U.N., Reclamation, Civil Rights, Federal Housing

PHILADELPHIA, June 22—(AP)—Here are the highlights of the platform approved by the resolutions committee of the republican national convention for action by the convention itself tomorrow:

"To establish and maintain peace, to build a country in which every citizen can earn a good living with the promise of real progress for himself and his family, and to uphold as a beacon light for mankind everywhere the inspiring American tradition of liberty, opportunity and justice for all—that is the republican platform."

"Our foreign policy is dedicated to preserving a free America in a free world of free men... Prudently conserving our own resources, we shall cooperate on a self-help basis with other peace-loving nations. We believe in collective security... the United Nations should progressively establish international law, be freed of any veto in the peaceful settlement of international disputes, and be provided with the armed forces contemplated by the charter."

"We pledge an attack on the basic causes of inflation, including progressive reduction of the cost of government... stimulation of production... fiscal policies to provide increased incentives, a sound currency, reduction of the public debt."

"The maintenance of armed services for air, land and sea, to a degree which will insure our national security... recognizing the American principle that every citizen has an obligation of service to his country."

"Continuation of efforts... to reduce the enormous burden of taxation... withdrawal or reduction of those taxes which can best be administered by local governments, with particular consideration of excise and inheritance taxes."

"Small business... must be encouraged through aggressive anti-monopoly action, elimination of unnecessary controls, protection against discrimination, correction of tax abuses, and limitation of competition by governmental organizations."

"Collective bargaining is an obligation as well as a right; applying equally to workers and employers; and the fundamental right to strike is subordinate only to paramount considerations of public health and safety... We pledge continuing study to improve labor-management legislation..."

"A long-term program in the interest of agriculture and the consumer which should include... effective protection of reasonable market prices through flexible support prices, commodity loans, marketing agreements... encouragement of family-sized farms... support of the principle of bona fide farmer-owned and farmer-operated cooperatives, and sound rural electrification."

"A comprehensive reclamation program... with full protection of the rights and interests of the states..."

"A realistic and adequate adjustment of (veterans') benefits on a cost-of-living basis..."

Court Awaits Recommendation For New Draft Board Members

While four Salem youths joined the national guard Tuesday, the first since passage of the draft act, Marion county court was awaiting the recommendation of 15 men to serve on new selective service boards.

The boards will be located probably at Salem, Stayton and Woodburn, as during the war, County Judge Grant Murphy said he was informed by the adjutant general's office. The court has asked the mayors of the latter two cities and American Legion officials in Salem to nominate board members. These names will be forwarded through state officials to the national office.

The men who enlisted here were Robert Craig, route 4, box 336; Ronald Blume, 1920 S. Church st.; Jack Geer, 335 Fawcett ave., and Bennett Nelson, 1770 N. Capitol st. They were taken today to report summer encampment at Camp Clatsop, where they were to be examined and enlisted for duty.

Few others, though, had inquired here about guard enlistment, in contrast to the picture in many other cities.

The state adjutant general's office ordered some officers and recruiting details of the guard to their home stations to enlist men before President Truman signs the draft bill. An officer will arrive at the army here today to report to Capt. Burl Cox, commander of company B, 162nd infantry, and will be assisted by 1st Sgt. William St. Clair and Sgt. Oren McDowell, who are not attending camp.

May Evade Draft
Until the bill is signed, men in the draft age group may evade the draft by joining certain groups such as the guard and certain reserves. Locally, the marine corps reserve unit was informed Tuesday that it could enlist men and make them draft-exempt. The navy reserve office had not yet received word as to its status.

Maj. Leonard Hicks, marine reserve commander here, said 20 vacancies exist in the unit, for which men may sign up at the office in the city hall or at the unit meeting tonight at 7:30 o'clock in building T-514 at the airport.

Marion county court had not received information Tuesday as to nomination of members for new draft boards.

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

plainly tailored for the occasion. Last night however, Herbert Hoover rose to real heights in an address at once serious and challenging, free from platitudes and palaver, carrying conviction because of the sincerity of a man who has consistently battled for the protection of fundamental liberties.

Now we come to the platform which as always must be broad enough for all factions to stand on and strong enough to last through a campaign. The platform submitted by Senator Vandenberg's committee has one distinct virtue: it is the shortest in the party's history. That should mean fewer promises to break or ignore—or to carry out if the party wins.

This year's platform reflects something of the congressional struggle over international questions; and again the ideas fought for by Senator Vandenberg have been adopted. The hidebound isolationists lost the round.

Many of the platform declarations are couched in vague language or in generalities such as cause little offense. On communism is favors enactment of "such new legislation as may be necessary" etc. Farm prices should be supported "on a just basis"—no one can quarrel with words like "just" and "fair."

One recommendation seems definite, though clearly it didn't come from the house committee on banking. It is the plank endorsing federal aid to states for local slum clearance and low-rental housing, where private enterprise cannot meet the need. Civil rights won platform approval and the west had its regional ambitions recognized.

It would be easy for a person to grow cynical as he listens to the convention proceedings, reads about convention claptrap and hears about deals and trades and misdeeds. But these conventions have been noisy and turbulent at least since 1860 when Abe Lincoln was nominated in the Wigwam at Chicago. And usually the country has fared pretty well in spite of convention fanfare and the political gamble of its nomination. Perhaps there was something to the comment made by M. Ostrogorski, a Russian political scientist, who after attending a national convention in the United States concluded that "God must protect drunkards, little children and the United States."

Lunch Honors Kiwanis Club Ex-Presidents

Twelve past presidents of the Salem Kiwanis club were honored in a luncheon meeting of the organization at the Marion hotel Tuesday.

Guy Hickok, immediate past president, acted as master of ceremonies, and introduced the former leaders, who donned artificial beards for the program. Past presidents introduced were Frederick Klaus, W. J. Braun, W. W. Chadwick, Ben Ramsey, Henry E. Morris, Harold Tomlinson, Roy Hewitt, V. E. Kuhn, Ed Schunke, George Swift and W. W. McKinney.

Former presidents of other Kiwanis clubs attending were Ted Medford, Klamath Falls; Earl Cook, North Dakota; and State Sen. Howard Belton, Canby, republican candidate for the state treasurer'ship.

Frank Bennett, former Kiwanis president at Tillamook and Salem public schools superintendent, spoke briefly about presidential candidates and the national republican convention in Philadelphia.

OIL BURNER SERVICE

Salem Heating and Sheet Metal Co.
1685 Broadway Call 6555

Jaycees Ask Isolated Stop Signs Removed

The Junior Chamber of Commerce voted Tuesday to ask the city council to order removal of isolated stop signs on streets in Salem which do not carry arterial traffic.

The resolution, which was approved at the Jaycees' weekly luncheon meeting in the Marion hotel, declares "these scattered stop signs are a hazard and a drivers' 'death trap' rather than a proper traffic regulation." The resolution also deplors lack of stop signs at certain intersections on otherwise through arterial streets.

Examples of isolated stop signs were given as those at south Liberty and Wilson streets and south 14th and Mill streets. The Jaycees asked that the city engineer's office be instructed to conduct a survey of the situation.

As the main speaker at the luncheon, the Jaycees heard Jack Frisbe, sales manager for the Salem Electric co-op, describe the organizational set-up of Salem Electric and tell the advantages which the electric distributing co-op offers. Frisbe stated that good management can be credited with the success of co-operative enterprises rather than any natural advantages of a socialist venture.

Queen Lois Eggers and her Cherryland Festival court also visited the Jaycee luncheon accompanied by their chaperone Mrs. Arthur Weddie and introduced c. Charles Barclay.

Kenneth A. Mulkey

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