

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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Growth of Corporations

Fed by war and postwar expansion and by attendant price inflation, the size of big corporations—and of small ones too, for that matter—has zoomed in late years. Now there are 17 non-financial concerns with assets of over a billion dollars. In 1939 only a dozen qualified.

Bigest of all is still the Bell telephone system with assets of eight and three-quarters billions as of December 31st last. Standard Oil of New Jersey is second at nearly three billions. Others which follow are in order of total assets: General Motors, Pennsylvania RR, U. S. Steel, New York Central RR, Southern Pacific system, Standard Oil of Indiana, Socony-Vacuum Oil, Santa Fe RR, B & O RR, Consolidated Edison of NY, Union Pacific RR, Commonwealth & Southern system, Texas Co., Dupont, and General Electric. The last made the biggest gain—137 per cent since 1939.

When it comes to gross sales the list changes. General Motors is at the top with sales of nearly four billions. Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea (food stores) is second with two and a half billions. Then come Standard Oil of New Jersey, Swift, Bell Telephone, U. S. Steel, Sears-Robuck, Armour, Chrysler, General Electric, Montgomery Ward, Safeway, Bethlehem Steel, Socony-Vacuum Oil—all with sales of over a billion dollars. The big merchandising concerns get into this list but not in the first because they do not have such large fixed assets. (The listings are taken from a report in Business Week).

If the value of the dollar declines we may have to adopt a new unit of money, say a mille, of the value of 1000 dollars. We get that effect now in many statistical tables which carry the caption "in thousands of dollars." The "mille" would make that unnecessary.

The magnitude of these corporations is staggering, and easily excites among some people a desire to smite them down. But figures are relative; and similar expansion in wealth, percentage-wise, may be noted all down the hierarchy of business. The farmer can compute the value of his farm at two or three times what it was in 1932 and his machinery likewise represents a far higher investment. We have become a country where business is conducted in billions rather than just millions. Where big business performs services of value to the masses of the people and where its earnings are distributed among a large number of owners it is not the enemy to society which might be pictured. But it always is necessary for the people to keep a halter on business lest it get so big it overwhelms government and the social good.

Loan for U. N. Capital

Congress pushed for its hat without waiting to pass a bill to make \$5,000,000 available as a loan to the United Nations for erection of its permanent buildings in New York City. This leaves the U. N. organization in something of a stew. Wreckers are busy clearing the site which John D. Rockefeller provided, but without the loan U. N. will not be able to contract for construction work.

The failure of congress to act now stirs advocates of other locations for the U. N. capital into attempts to move it out of the United States. The buildings of the old league of nations at Geneva would be available, but some fear that the ghost of the league would haunt them, to the damage of U. N. A move to another city would not solve the question of finance because no other country is ready to make the loan which U. N. requires.

The Arab states are favorable for a shift. Originally they liked San Francisco where their nationals had been fed by the oil companies holding concessions in the middle east. They want to get out of New York to escape the pressures from the Jews, so they admit; and would prefer Geneva. Russia also has been wanting to get U. N. out of the United States so it would be less subject to American pressures.

The issue will arise at the meeting of the general assembly in Paris in September. To head it off, President Truman is said to be considering a call for a special session of congress with the loan to U. N. a special purpose. Leaders of congress could recall that body and Speaker Martin thinks the business unfinished justifies the recall, but Senator Taft feels differently.

Congress may have been reluctant to make the loan for fear of U. N. failure. However the buildings would still be there and could be used by government offices to good advantage. In the end congress probably will act favorably on the bill. Even if it doesn't proponents of change would have to muster a two-thirds vote in the assembly, and that would not be easy in the face of American opposition.

Russia Needles the West

The Russians are acting up again in Berlin, putting the squeeze on the western powers to force them out of the erstwhile capital of Germany. Rail and auto service with the west has been cut, and interruptions of electric and water service are reported. The occasion for the squeeze is the introduction of new currency in western Germany by the western allies. However, that is merely the excuse given. Russia could have participated in a general currency revaluation if it had been willing.

These clearly are measures "short of war." They are part however of a definite policy. That is to get other powers out of Berlin then to proclaim a new German government with Berlin as its capital. Propaganda would be blared (it already has been) that the western allies are guilty of the partition of Germany, and many Germans will fall for it. The old sentimental attachment for Berlin will be worked on.

To implement this policy the communist press in east Germany has been warning western Germans against taking any part in the new government. General Sokolofsky threatens dire penalties on any Germans who accept the new western currency.

The result is to make it necessary for the western powers to implement their own policy with positive assurances they will not desert the Germans in the sectors they now occupy.

The cold war thus builds up some heat. Friction might cause sparks which start real flame. The situation clearly calls for calm appraisal and coolness with our courage. We still think the Russians will not precipitate war; and our cue is not to provoke it by hasty or ill-considered actions.

The Oregon State Motor association has recommended to the Portland city council discontinuance of the motor vehicle testing station. The Oregonian took a rap at a proposed increase in the inspection fee from 50c to \$1.00. This writer's negative prevented the imposition of the inspection on motor vehicles all over the state. Now it is admitted that only a small proportion of motor car accidents are due to mechanical defects. And inspection is no proof that defects will not show up in the next 50 miles of driving.

The poet Lowell was right when he wrote "O what is so rare as a day in June; Then if ever come perfect days." We are getting a few of them here this year.

Pajama makers have announced a price cut on men's sleeping garments. Daylight saving makes them last longer too.

Vice President Race Crowded At Philadelphia

By Joseph and Stewart Alsop
PHILADELPHIA, June 24—As these words are written, the sweating delegates have just finished electing Gov. Dewey as GOP presidential nominee. Now that the main issue is decided, this seems a good time to put forward a great project of constitutional reform, the need for which has been clearly disclosed by this convention.



In brief, what is needed is to remodel the federal government on the lines of the Chase bank, thus remedying its most serious deficiency—the singleness of the vice presidency. A majority of the statesmen here present would unquestionably vote for an amendment providing 17 federal vice presidents, or whatever other number may be the Chase bank's current total. An improved federal establishment, and still more interesting republican conventions, would be the immediate results of this great reform.

The happy case of house majority leader Charles Halleck, and the sad story of Governor Dwight Green of Illinois, provide proof enough that the need for this great reform is grave and urgent. They also convey more of what can only be called the odor of this convention than any other single episode.

Halleck, Dewey Friend

To begin with Representative Halleck, this active, ambitious, busy little man has always cultivated connections with important persons; and one of his long standing connections was with Governor Dewey. It was not clear, it was not definite. But it was never the less rather generally understood long months ago that Representative Halleck would be for Dewey at Philadelphia, and that Dewey would confer on Representative Halleck the second place on his ticket. Representative Halleck was a hopeful man when he entered this city at the head of the Indiana delegation, which was pledged to him as the state's favorite son.

Unfortunately, there are more votes in Illinois than there are in Indiana, and Governor Green has long felt that there was something a trifle provincial about life in Springfield. The Dewey managers had the happy, but rather foolish idea, that Governor Green could defy the terrifying thunders of Colonel Robert R. McCormick, and take part of the Illinois delegation away from Senator Robert A. Taft. If this bold putsch or jacquerie of the political pentstach of Illinois could only succeed, Governor Green would have the natural right to a glittering new life, as vice president in the nation's capital.

Indiana Win Deferred

With the prize of Illinois dangling before them the always business-like Dewey management deferred nailing down the smaller, easier prize of Indiana. At first representative Halleck was a little plaintive about the absence of any reassurance about his own future. He was hard to wonder whether he ought to go to Governor Dewey, to talk things over, or wait for Governor Dewey to talk to him.

Then proper pride asserted itself. Two days before the balloting he joined the councils of the combination which was then forming to stop Governor Dewey. He assured Michigan State Chairman Arthur Summerfield that he would not go for Dewey, and meant to hold the Indiana delegation to their favorite son commitment to himself. For 24 hours, Halleck was in truth an active member of the grand alliance against the New York governor. Even in the afternoon of the last day, when rumors had begun to circulate about Indiana being for Dewey, Halleck assured Summerfield that his determination had not weakened.

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"You can't beat the U.S. Mails . . . and their determination to see that I get urgent notice of an alumni dance . . ."

Delegates Demonstrate for Gov. Warren



PHILADELPHIA, June 24—Supporters of Gov. Earl Warren of California parade with posters in demonstration at the republican convention in Philadelphia after his name was proposed as a presidential candidate. (AP Wirephoto to The Statesman).

Convention Hall--Time 4:30 a.m.



PHILADELPHIA, June 24—The last delegate gone, a convention hall workman begins the long task of sweeping up after riotous session of the republican national convention in Philadelphia. Posters, banners, placards and confetti covered the floor of the huge hall when the session ended after names of seven men were placed in nomination. (AP Wirephoto to The Statesman).

Profile Is Familiar



PHILADELPHIA, June 24—Thomas E. Dewey, Jr., 15, (left) grins at poster of his father during demonstration on convention floor when the New York governor's name was placed in nomination. His brother, John, 11, seems to have found something interesting in the other direction. (AP Wirephoto to The Statesman).

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Oregon Bloc Plays Dramatic Role in Victory

By Vivian McMurtrey
Special Statesman Correspondent

PHILADELPHIA, June 24—(Special)—Selection of the GOP presidential nominee is over, and Oregonians played dramatic roles, Robert Farrell Sr., cast the vote for the Oregon delegation.

Mrs. James Mott probably took her duties more seriously than any woman delegate from anywhere. Her work on the resolution committee will long be remembered. Stassen's campaign manager Bob Elliott marched in the Dewey parade thereby demonstrating Americanism at work, as we all know how much undercurrent there must have been within our own delegation.

James Hatfield from Salem served and voted as an alternate and conducted himself with the aplomb of a seasoned statesman. His support of Governor Dewey at the hour of victory was a credit to Oregon.

E. P. Hoyt, former Oregonian editor, was conspicuous in the Colorado delegation and seemed to mother-hen the group. The California delegation died hard, but were good sports in the final give-in. Now their eyes and all our interest is directed toward the vice presidency. There is much talk in Oregon's own smoke-filled rooms about the possibility of either Charles Halleck, house majority leader in congress, and Kenneth Wherry, U. S. senator of Nebraska for vice president, James Rodman favors Wherry. However the Oregon delegation decided to offer their first support in the direction to California Governor Earl Warren.

McGrath Says GOP Rejects Taft Regime

NARRAGANSETT, R. I., June 24—(Pi)—Democratic National Chairman J. Howard McGrath said tonight the republican convention, by its nomination of Gov. Thomas E. Dewey, has "repudiated" Senator Robert A. Taft and the record of the republican party which he achieved in the 80th congress.

"By denying the legislative record of Senator Taft," the senator said in a statement at his summer home here, "The GOP has shown that it appreciates the enormity of the failure of the 80th congress."

"Now, it will be necessary," Senator McGrath continued, "For Governor Dewey to explain away all that the congress did or failed to do under Senator Taft's leadership."

"Presumably, by this repudiation, the republican party feels that it can go to the people and claim that it now will do the things the republican congress refused to do."

The Safety Valve

LETTERS FROM STATESMAN READERS

Favors Good Pay For City Manager

The budget committee recently suggested salary adjustments for all the city employees and the council should authorize the adjustments at its next meeting. The fifteen dollar blanket increase hardly keeps pace with other cities and governing bodies in the Valley and the slight adjustment to the Manager's salary is insignificant when we compare it to the million dollars of our money which we entrust him to spend, carefully and wisely, each year.

Hardly a week passes, but he saves us more than the proposed annual increase in his salary in little ways that only an expert would notice. I have been engaged in the design and construction of public works for 20 years and I know that an honest and efficient engineer can save thousands of dollars on any project where a man of less experience and judgment would not realize that money was being wasted. Careful and wise use of other people's money is as much a part of a good engineer's life as the relief of suffering is a part of a physician's life.

I am not at all sure that we are doing our manager a favor by keeping him here. Other cities are willing to pay him more than we can afford, to secure the benefits of his judgment and experience. However, if he will stay with us we will benefit a hundred fold more than the slight amount we pay as his salary. Where could we find an architect or private engineer to take the responsibility we place on our manager for less than one per cent of the cost of the work and service provided?

The budget committee has acted wisely and the council should follow their recommendations.

Robert F. Stanley
570 Rose Street
Salem, Oregon

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

tried to stage a revolt from the GOP machine, but they closed in on him and Mott led 41 of the state's 73 delegates to Dewey's camp on the first ballot. That they headed for Dewey instead of Taft was probably not the result of making a better deal at the Dewey pie-counter but because they picked Dewey for the winner to ride with.

For those who saw and felt the Dewey campaign organization in action in Oregon the result occasions no surprise. Able, experienced men backed with ample financial resources, shrewd in the tricks of the political trade set up a campaign organization in Oregon which in a few weeks came up from behind and crushed the Stassen opposition.

The Dewey organization moved efficiently and relentlessly to close the gaps in its delegate strength at Philadelphia. There are charges of trades and deals. These arise chiefly from the opposition; but surely no one is so naive as to believe that the attractions of position and power were not used as lures at the other campaign headquarters.

Perhaps there was a certain ruthlessness in the roll of the Dewey machine—that has been characteristic of his methods since the days when he was a gang-busting district attorney.

But when the sting of disappointment lessons and the realities of the republican situation become clearer it should be seen that the Dewey victory was won neither by stratagem or spoils. He has the record of able administration of the most populous state of the union. He has proven a strong campaigner and vote-getter. He is in the prime of manhood, intelligent, with no stains on his personal life. Many do not like him personally; others will criticize him for this or for that. But the fact remains that he is a dynamic individual who nevertheless has in all his public life believed in teamwork, calling in able men as assistants and serving as their captain.

I do not see how Dewey can now be stopped from going on to win the presidency in the November election. And it was really Oregon that put jet propulsion in his campaign.

Sam Scribner Convicted of Bank Robbery

PORTLAND, June 24—(AP)—A jury convicted Sam Scribner, 31, of the Oakland, Ore., bank robbery today after deliberating nearly 24 hours and returning to hear some of the testimony again.

Scribner was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment. It was his second trial on a charge of robbing the E. G. Young & Co. bank at Oakland, Ore., on May 5 of last year.

The first trial, in which Scribner acted as his own attorney ended in a hung jury. Scribner had an attorney this time.

The testimony which the nine men and three women on the jury asked to have re-run was Floyd A. Fenley's. On the stand Fenley had identified Scribner as a man seen coming out of the bank the day of the robbery.

Scribner had contended he was at his Bakersfield, Calif., home that day.

Relief of suffering is a part of a physician's life.

I am not at all sure that we are doing our manager a favor by keeping him here. Other cities are willing to pay him more than we can afford, to secure the benefits of his judgment and experience. However, if he will stay with us we will benefit a hundred fold more than the slight amount we pay as his salary. Where could we find an architect or private engineer to take the responsibility we place on our manager for less than one per cent of the cost of the work and service provided?

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