

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
From First Statesman, March 28, 1851

THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

CHARLES A. SPRAGUE, Editor and Publisher

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Steel and the Future of Industry

New price lists on steel distributed in this territory show increases of 60c to \$1.00 per hundred, due to the abolishing of the basing point price system. This was recently announced by the steel companies following a supreme court decision in a cement company case. To illustrate: The former Portland wholesale price on steel plate was \$5.70 per hundred. Now it is \$6.30. That is an increase of nearly 11 per cent. Previously this much freight was absorbed by the steel mill.

This increase doesn't take into account the mill price increase of around 50c a hundred announced by U. S. Steel last week, as offset to higher coal and labor charges. Between the two, consumers of steel and steel products in this region will really be pinched. Since steel is basic to modern industry—fabrication, construction, transportation—its pricing has a most important effect on the whole economy.

The real sad news, however, is that the outlook for the future is for still higher prices for steel, even if there is no change in wage or freight charges, due to the reduction in our supplies of cheap iron ore. The yawning red throats of the blast furnaces already have used up 60 per cent of the rich ores of the Mesabi range in northern Minnesota. In another 15 years those ores will be used up if the present rate of steel production is maintained and we continue to rely on the Mesabi for 80 per cent of our requirements. Some companies are turning to the old iron mining region of the Adirondacks in northern New York where the ore is rich but has to be mined from deep tunnels—not by open pit mining as on the Mesabi.

Even if other domestic sources were known, it is quite improbable that the ores could be handled as economically as those of northern Minnesota. Those who have visited Duluth and the mining region have seen the biggest scale mining operation in the world. Giant shovels, after stripping the overburden, fill the ore cars which move downgrade in long trains to the ore docks at Duluth. There the ore is discharged into the great wheeled ore carriers of the Great Lakes for transport to steel mills at Gary, Ind., Cleveland and other points along the lakes or for the short rail haul to Pittsburgh or Youngstown. The abundant coals of the Appalachian range permit the cheap conversion of iron ore into pigs and then into steel. The major part of America's heavy industry is built in this industrial block between the Alleghenies and the Mississippi, and the Great Lakes and the Ohio River. The consumption of the ores on which the steel mills depend may work a real revolution in American industry.

Seeing the day when the Mesabi no longer can furnish the ore needed, some iron mining companies are investigating taconite, an iron-bearing rock of which there are large quantities in northern Minnesota. The ores presently mined are derived from taconite whose silicon was leached out through long geological periods. To get iron ore out of taconite it is necessary to grind the rock to a fine powder and then separate the ore by the magnetic or flotation process. Just this month a pilot plant began operating in Aurora, Minn., to test these processes for reducing taconite to iron ore. If it is successful, mining companies will have to invest hundreds of millions of dollars in the immediate region to do what nature did for them when it laid out the iron ranges of northern Minnesota. According to "Business Week," tremendous quantities of water (obtainable from Lake Superior) will be needed and great amounts of power which are not now in sight.

Still other sources for iron ore are referred to in an article by Marvin Barloon in Harper's magazine for last August. He mentions that Bethlehem Steel now gets ore for its Maryland plant from Chile and Venezuela. Then he adds:

"The only known ores of high quality and great abundance are those of Labrador and Itabira, Brazil. These are both difficult of access. But the standards of good ore location will become less exacting as the Mesabi range plays out."

Barloon reasons that reliance on these sources will bring the steel mills to the seaboard, with the Chesapeake and Mobile bay regions preferred. If congress does not legalize the basing point system there may be wider dispersal of steel manufacturing.

The United States and all the world are hungry for steel. Rearmament is taking more steel—and getting it from industrial users. The substitutes—aluminum, plastics—do not seem to relieve the demand. The present boom will come to an end, but such is the world need for steel that there is slim chance for any collapse in operations of steel mills. All the factors seem to point to higher costs for steel over the longer term. And the major factor is the exhaustion of our rich patrimony in the Mesabi.

Luxuries on the Farm

Before the war the city folks used to kind of make fun of the farmer, in a good natured way. They thought his outdoor plumbing, underground water-cooled vegetable bins and high-topped Model T were quaint. And they didn't think much about their share of the blame for his low standard of living.

Today the tables are definitely turned. High food prices that are raising hob with urbanite budgets are just what the farmer needed to bring his living standards up to that of his apartment-house customers.

It is not uncommon today to see a flashy 1949 model sedan pulling a two-wheel trailer loaded with milk cans. That's because the farmer only has to sell four head of cattle to buy that smart roadster. In 1940 the same car cost 14 units of beef on the hoof. Before the war, a farmer had to sell a ten-acre crop of corn to buy a radio-phonograph; this year he can get a nice console model for four acres, according to an NEA newschart.

The farmer's wife used to do her laundry in tubs on the back porch; it would have cost her husband 11 acres of wheat to buy a washing machine. Today she can help him harvest the caneberrys while her new automatic washer does the overalls—it cost a five-acre crop. And five hogs will net the price of a fine big refrigerator—the same glorified icebox that cost the price of 20 fat porkers in 1940.

Three of the five public land offices being eliminated by the department of the interior are in Oregon: Roseburg, The Dalles, Lakeview. The Portland office will serve the whole state. The offices long ago outlived their usefulness as the public lands were disposed of or withdrawn from entry. The offices afforded political plums for dispersal to the minor political chieftains. That was why they were continued long after the homesteading day had virtually ended.

Another straw revealing wind direction in Europe is the statement of the secretary-general of Italy's socialist party that the Popular Front alliance of socialists and communists no longer exists. Losing their socialist allies will weaken the communist party. As for the socialists, in nearly all countries they seem to have fallen between two stools—the right and the left.

A grain dealer at Mt. Vernon, Wash., advertises: "Grain Prices Are Dropping; You Can Depend on Us to Follow the Market." The smart dealer is one who moves ahead of the market.

Cowboys and cowgirls are coming to Corvallis, says the G-T; but to stage a stampede, not attend a cow college.

SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from Page 1)

(Continued from page 1) discussion will be a debate between "affirmative" and "negative" but rather the airing of viewpoints on the approach to the problem. Strait favors a union of democracies with a bill of rights for all nations members of the union, though they might retain a UN membership. Cranston as a believer in world federalism wants the UN charter revised. Judge Bosone is a member of the United Nations association which supports the present type of organization. Frye, correspondent for British papers, is expected to present a British viewpoint. Insofar as there is a debatable thesis it will probably be over the question of whether we should move at once toward world federation or stick with the looser UN type of organization.

The meeting is held under the auspices of the Eugene Council on World Affairs which has been doing some real study of the problem of world relations.

Once again, as with the famous Dewey-Stassen debate last May in Portland, the nation's ears will be attuned to Oregon. The discussion Monday night will be held in McArthur court. If you can't attend, plan to listen on KEX—Tuesday night at 8:30.

New Group to Boost Army Service Role

A civilian military manpower committee, designed to boost enlistments in the regular U. S. army, will hold an organizational meeting Wednesday night at the chamber of commerce at 8 o'clock.

Purpose of the group is to aid army and air force recruiters and cooperating organizations to publicize the role of the peacetime army and air force.

Seven local groups to be represented are American Legion posts 9, 149 and 136, Elks, Eagles, Kiwanis and Salem Lions club, Junior Chamber of Commerce and a faculty member of Salem high school.

Citizens named to the committee include Mayor Robert Elstrom, chairman, Robert R. Boardman, Mrs. James W. Mott, H. C. Saalfeld, W. H. Baillie, Marion County Judge Grant Murphy, Col. Eugene Foster and Rex Kimmell.

The Safety Valve

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A century of plain living and high thinking! A noble man who leaves his mark on his generation and on hundreds of generations to follow! Reverently,

Florence Matthes, Salem, Ore.

The Ivan Martins of Salem, Mass.

To the Editor: Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Martin and their sons, Ivan, Jr. and Stearns, of Salem, Mass., who were guests of Cherryland for a day, are now in Alaska continuing an extended vacation. They will return to their home in the east by way of Banff and the Canadian Pacific.

Mr. Martin in bringing to Salem greetings and the good will of his home city was admirably qualified as such representative.

He is an official and substantially interested in a department chain store operating in several New England states; a board member of the Salem, Mass. Chamber of Commerce; a Rotarian, and interested in many civic enterprises. Both Mr. and Mrs. Martin are college graduates.

Mrs. Martin having been a teacher of speech. The courtesy and entertainment given our guests by Mayor Elstrom, Sidney Stevens, Clay Cochran, the Cherrians, police escort and many other citizens were deeply appreciated.

From the time the Martin family alighted from the train and were escorted into town until they were taken to the Cherrian night show at the fairgrounds and after the performance taken to Portland, there was not a dull moment. After Mr. Martin had spoken briefly over the radio in the afternoon, he and his family enjoyed a sight-seeing trip including Silver Creek falls. They had never seen a hop field, nor a prune tree. They were amazed at the extent and size of our timber and our mountains and greatly interested in our products. Mr. Martin while standing on a precipice above the falls looking out over the lovely view of virgin landscape breathed deeply of the refreshing air and said to me, "Such an experience as this makes one feel glad that he is an American—one can not fully realize the beauty, the bigness and freedom of our America and the happiness that is ours to enjoy until he has experienced and seen what I have enjoyed and experienced today."

While our guests missed a scheduled trip over the Columbia highway and Bonneville in order to be with us, each of the family expressed regret in having to leave. We hope that their visit made possible by an unusual circumstance will result in a closer friendship and bond between our two Salams.

Ivan Martin of Salem, Oregon.

GRIN AND BEAR IT



"The campaign has hit a snag, Senator . . . your opponent is now pointing with pride to YOUR record . . ."

\$13,320,000 Appropriated for 1950-51 State Highway Budget

Oregon's highway construction program for each of the fiscal years 1950 and 1951 will involve approximately \$13,320,000, based on federal aid funds appropriated by the last congress and state matching contributions, State Highway Engineer R. H. Baldock reported Saturday.

There are three classes of projects. For federal aid primary highways there will be available for each of the two years \$5,600,000 of which \$3,330,000 involves federal funds and \$2,270,000 state matching funds. Allocated for federal aid secondary highways is \$2,275,000 of federal funds and \$1,525,000 of state matching money. The total for federal urban highways is \$1,200,000, of which the federal government has provided \$720,000 and the state \$480,000.

Forest highway federal funds aggregate \$2,720,000. Of the total funds for each year the federal government provides \$9,045,000 and the state \$4,275,000.

These amounts of federal money, Baldock said, represent Oregon's share in the total federal authorizations of \$450,000,000 per year for federal aid highways and \$20,000,000 per year for forest

highways. Baldock said money for federal aid primary highways are apportioned among the states one-third in proportion to total population, one-third based on area and one-third in proportion to post road mileage.

Funds for federal secondary highways are based one-third in proportion to rural population, one-third area and one-third on road mileage. Urban area appropriations are apportioned among the states in proportion to population residing in the cities having populations greater than 5,000. Forest highway moneys, Baldock said, are apportioned among the states according to the area and value of national forest land owned by the federal government.

Federal funds for the first two years covered in the authorization will be available to the states contracting by January 1, 1949. Funds for the second year should be available for contracting early in January, 1950.

Work on which the three classes of federal aid funds are to be used will be contracted and supervised by the state highway commission. Operations under forest highway funds will be supervised by the federal public roads administration.

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By Lichty

Queen's Coronation to Open Stayton Annual Bean Festival

STAYTON, July 24—(Special)—Coronation of Queen Lorraine Walker of Mt. Angel will open the annual five-day bean festival here Tuesday night.

The crowning of the pretty queen will begin at 8 p.m. in the Women's clubhouse in downtown Stayton. A dance on the tennis courts next door is to start at 9 o'clock with the Browning carnival going full blast in the downtown sector.

Charles Claggett, king of the Stayton Cherrians, will crown Miss Walker. Members of the Cherrians also will act as official guards. Secretary of State Earl T. Newberry will talk and Stayton Mayor Clifford Likes is to welcome visitors at the public ceremonies. Gene Malecki of Salem, festival manager, will be master of ceremonies.

An amateur hour will be conducted Wednesday night at 8 o'clock in the Women's clubhouse and the finals will be broadcast over Salem radio station KSLM at 9:30 o'clock. This is reportedly the first radio broadcast ever to originate in Stayton.

Other highlights of the festival include the pet parade Thursday at 7 p.m. through downtown streets, and the grand parade Friday night. On Saturday, the closing day, a horse parade will be staged at 2 p.m., bicycle races and water and sports contests in Stayton park at 3 p.m., and the old time dance on the tennis courts and modern dance in the Herrold-Philippi garage, both beginning at 9 o'clock. Both the carnival and dances will be held each night of the festival.

Rent Adjustment Regulations for Area Announced

New rent adjustment regulations providing that no landlord need operate units at a loss and that a small landlord's filing for adjustment will be facilitated were announced Saturday by E. G. Clay, Salem defense rental area representative.

Landlords who believe they are operating at a loss may, under the housing and rent act of 1948, petition the area rent office for "due consideration."

A simplified form for depicting increased costs of fuel, taxes, utilities and insurance, without the requirement of bookkeeping, is available to landlords who own no more than four rental dwelling units.

New Member on School Board

SILVERTON — Jack Spencer has been elected to chairmanship of district school board to replace Lloyd Larsen, who has served for the past two years. Larsen is still a member of the board. Other board members are Arthur Dahl, Felix Wright and Norman Naegeli.

The school board has announced that Charles Case has accepted the janitorship to succeed Philip Tucker, retired, and Paul Higley has been hired as regular maintenance man.

Oats Continue Drop in Price

By William Ferris

CHICAGO, July 24—(AP)—Oats kept on going downward on the board of trade today despite the fact that July contracts have been closed out. The weakness in oats upset corn and had some influence in easing wheat prices.

Many traders had believed that winding up of dealings in July contracts yesterday would create a firmer tone in grains, particularly oats.

Wheat ended 1/4-1/2 lower, Sep-

tember 33.30%-1/4, corn was 1 cent lower to 1/2 higher, September \$1.74-1/4, oats were 1/4 to 2 cents lower, September 74 1/4-74, rye was 1/4 higher, December \$1.87, and soybeans were unchanged to 1 cent lower, November \$2.98.

Family Reunion Held at Swegle

SWEGLA — The children of Mrs. Josephine Stauffer and their families gathered at her home in East Swegle July 18 for a family reunion. Dinner was served on the lawn under a large English walnut tree that had been planted by the father 48 years ago.

Present were Mr. and Mrs. Jake Stauffer and children, Sandra, Lee and Linda of Chicago, Ill.; Mr. and Mrs. Joe Stauffer and their eight children of Albany, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hersh, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Stauffer, Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Haury and children, Mr. and Mrs. Adam Hoffalter, Alma Stauffer and Mrs. Josephine Stauffer. Neighbors calling in the afternoon were Mr. and Mrs. Arthur De Vries and Mrs. Mary Gerig and Hulda Gerig.

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