

# The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"  
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## Financing Old Age Pensions

A contributor to our Safety Valve in an adjoining column asks why the state is "broke" when it comes to paying pensions under the new law, while bordering states are paying \$60 a month in old age pensions. The immediate answer is that both Washington and California levy sales taxes which produce large sums in revenues. In Washington it is suggested that the state may find it necessary to increase the sales tax from three to five per cent to finance a recently-voted increase in pensions there.

Oregon, it is not necessary to add, has regularly voted down a sales tax or other tax even when tied to financing grants or pensions for the aged.

It is true that we have an income tax which currently is producing more revenue than can be spent under present laws for support of state government and school assistance. But it yields no sums which would finance the old age pension voted last week. Also, the voters, in the same election, voted to raise income tax exemptions which will reduce the proceeds of the income tax.

As far as putting the burden on property the public reaction against the present property tax load certainly is not favorable to the increase which would be required to pay \$50 a month pensions to all eligible under the law that was just approved. Other attempts to increase state revenues, for instance the cigarette or tobacco tax, has regularly been voted down by the people.

Every tax bill passed by the legislature is subject to the gauntlet of the referendum. That handicaps the legislature from finding any solution to the state's fiscal problems. Certainly the legislature should not pass a pension bill to be financed by a sales tax, because it would be referred and defeated. That would be a transparent fool on the old people.

What the legislature will have to do is to revise the laws covering old age assistance. Nothing should be done to put in jeopardy the amounts payable by the federal government. The principal problem is to provide revenues in addition to liquor revenues to finance the public welfare program. This can be done, but it will require a reenactment of the corporation excise tax (perhaps also of the income tax) to permit receipts to be available for general appropriation. We believe it will be possible under such a plan to bring up the average grant paid eligible elderly persons to \$50 a month.

It is important that the legislature approach the problem in the right spirit, not to ignore the people's vote because the bill passed may be unconstitutional, but with a sincere desire to deal justly with older citizens in need of public assistance with due regard, of course, to funds available and other obligations of the state.

## American Education Week

American Education week currently being observed merits special consideration this year in the light of the growing schisms between the enlightened western world and the curtain which hides the truth from the east and its satellites.

The week's theme, "Strengthening the Foun-

datations of Freedom," is particularly appropriate. Our schools with their emphasis of individual liberties are a bulwark against the ignorance in which all but a comparatively few of the earth's two billion people are kept. And in ignorance rests little hope for the upsurge of free peoples. Rather, it is fertile ground for the machinations of power blocs and the blind nationalism which breeds the willingness to war.

Only in the extension of education and understanding, and the free interchange of information, is there hope for a lasting peace. America is proud of its place as a leader in universal education. It is vital to insure its domestic tranquility and to stand as an example in world enlightenment.

Open house is the order of the day in many schools this week. Our attendance at such events will lend encouragement to both teacher and students.

## "Gang Aft Agley"

So wrote Bobbie Burns many years ago about the best-laid plans of mice and men.

The device by which the last congress sought to sever Mike Straus, commissioner of reclamation, and Richard Boke, regional director for California, from the public payroll promises, as a consequence of the last election, to prove ineffective. The appropriation bill carried a proviso that salaries would be paid only on condition that occupants of these offices were engineers—which Straus and Boke are not, with January 31 next as the terminal date. Now Straus says he and Boke have been asked by Secretary Krug to stay on. He assumes the 81st congress will provide salaries at least after July 1.

There were valid reasons for separating Straus from his job, but the method used—a rider to an appropriation bill—is not proper.

When the editor of this paper came west in 1910 to be superintendent of schools in Waitsburg, Wash., he found that one of the high school pupils was Genevieve Taggard, who had returned to the states from Hawaii where her father had been a teacher in the island schools. Genevieve was exceptionally bright and displayed literary talent of unusual quality. She was a frequent contributor of stories to the school paper. She went on with her education, graduating from the University of California, and continued with her writing. She became a teacher at Mt. Holyoke college, later at Bennington college and afterwards at Sarah Lawrence school in New York City. She published several volumes of verse and a biography of Emily Dickinson. Her poetry was too intellectual in content and too modern in style to attract a large public; but she was highly regarded among the literati of the day. Her death, which occurred Monday, was untimely, for she was only 54. Lloyd Arnold, foreman of the Statesman pressroom, was her first cousin.

Come Thanksgiving democrats will be eating turkey; republicans crow—because.



The Lincoln Highway

## Literary Guidepost

By W. G. ROGERS  
THE YOUNG HENRY ADAMS,  
by Ernest Samuels (Harvard; \$4.50)

Descendant of two presidents and son of the Charles Francis Adams who was a Massachusetts congressman and Civil War minister to England, Henry Adams wrote about himself in "The Education." It is, thanks in large part to what Samuels calls Adams' "obsessive interest in effectiveness of expression," one of our most absorbing books. But it is not, Samuels finds, wholly dependable.

Whether Adams' own picture for all its inaccuracies is not more praiseworthy than anyone

## The Safety Valve

Government For the People  
To the Editor:

This is one woman's opinion, on a very recent issue—namely the old age pension law, which was on the ballot in our last election, and was passed by a vote of the people. Now the state claims to be so near insolvency they are looking for a way out of paying the pension, but I wonder if they will tell Doug McKay, yes, sure, you were elected governor, but you will have to find a way to pay your salary.

This is supposed to be a government of the people, by the people and for the people. The question arises why are we broke, as a state? We have revenues the same as our bordering states and they are paying \$60 a month old age pensions.

The democrats took most of the states in the recent election. Oregon still remains republican. I wonder if they are proud of it. Under existing circumstances I say let's give it back to the Indians if we can not take care of our older citizens, who are the backbone of our country. I do not receive a pension nor have any relation who do. I just like and respect old people.

Stella R. Evans  
2162 N. Church

his grapes and prepares a meal like a sacrificial offering for an altar.

"The pleasure of eating what he raises" matches "the pleasure of raising what he eats." In a land where assembly belts stretch farther than the eye carries and skyscrapers are lost in the clouds, the business of growing a carrot or a cabbage is pretty small potatoes, this immigrant thinks, and yet he eloquently and obstinately begs us to hunt in the home and the garden for "the felicity we cannot find in the market place."

The world doesn't need another cookbook, said Pellegrini to himself, though there are cookbooks tidbits in this happy little volume; but it can use, he hoped, a "book on bread and wine in relation to life," and that is really his subject. Besides directions for growing fruit and vegetables, and recipes for minestrone, lamb and kidney stew and dishes made of veal, pork, tripe, spareribs and other food, Pellegrini serves us most-ly food for thought.

Born in Italy, as a child he was taught by necessity the many varied pleasures of rigorous frugality; he picked up sticks for the family fire, helped his father make wine, climbed the tallest trees for nesting birds to eat, and he tells, in an innocent and earthy and touching passage, how he and his playmates or workmates followed cattle to collect the steaming manure on which a peasant economy depends.

These habits persist today, though the author teaches English at the University of Washington. Peasant and professor together are responsible for the unique qualities of this delightful book.

THE UNPREJUDICED PALATE, by Angelo Pellegrini (Macmillan; \$3)

Angelo Pellegrini . . . gay, tinkling and savory name, doesn't dine. He eats. To him a dish is a feast, and a fetish, and cooking is more a cult than an art. He admits there's a slight danger he might turn mystic as he plants lovingly in his garden, hoes and weeds and waters and mutters with devotion, presses wine ritually from

## GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"What a dull bridge party and such awful food... but wasn't that a gorgeous cobweb hanging from her living room chandelier?"

## Seabee Unit to Be Activated Friday Night

Activation of an organized seabee unit here will be accomplished Friday night in ceremonies at building T-514, Salem airport, when about 20 enlisted men are expected to be sworn in by Lt. Comdr. J. K. Jackson of 13th navy district headquarters in Seattle. The unit already has five officers and will have places for 40 enlisted men for training in seabee specialties during monthly training sessions for which members will draw service pay. The Friday meeting will open at 8 p.m. The seabee veterans formed a volunteer unit in Salem a year ago last month. Officers now are Lt. William C. Hill, commander; Lt.

L. D. Fromin, executive officer; Chief Carpenter Gilbert D. Anderson, training officer; Lt. Donald M. Fisher, operations officer, and Lt. J. G. Russell D. Barry, personnel officer.

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Any \$45 Suit  
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Total Reg. Price \$87.50  
Total Reg. Price of all 3 \$87.50  
Deduct \$25.00  
Sale Price **\$62.50**

GROUP 2  
Any \$40 Topcoat  
Any \$50 Suit  
Any \$7.50 Hat  
Total Reg. Price \$97.50  
Total Reg. Price of all 3 \$97.50  
Deduct \$25.00  
Sale Price **\$72.50**

GROUP 3  
Any \$45 Topcoat  
Any \$55 Suit  
Any \$7.50 Hat  
Total Reg. Price \$107.50  
Total Reg. Price of all 3 \$107.50  
Deduct \$25.00  
Sale Price **\$82.50**

GROUP 4  
Any \$50 Topcoat  
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138 North Liberty Salem  
Will Remain OPEN ON ARMISTICE DAY  
Thursday, November 11

## Truman Makes Moves to Aid China

By Joseph and Stewart Alsop  
WASHINGTON, Nov. 10.—(AP)—President Truman has already made his bow, inconspicuously but significantly, in his new role as the active shaper of American foreign policy.

Almost before the ballots were counted, he wired to Washington from Independence, Mo., that in his opinion the crisis in China demanded a positive American action. The policy-making doves were considerably flustered by the president's unexpected intervention. The situation had been reviewed, however, before Truman's return in triumph to the White House. Before his departure for Key West, he issued his interim directive. It was a brief order that the Marine garrison should not be withdrawn from the communist-created North China area, and that all steps should be taken to get American arms to the forces still resisting the communists in the North China area.

The positiveness and the speed of the president's action are both worthy of remark. For three years, the Far Eastern policy of the United States has largely consisted of alternate bouts of hand-wringing and advice from the sidelines. The theory that the best policy was, in effect, to have no policy at all, was strongly held in the far eastern division of the state department. It was also stoutly maintained by Secretary of State George C. Marshall. Doubts as to this the-

ory's validity have only begun to arise very recently, when total catastrophe in China began to seem imminent. The president's intervention implies that a serious search for a positive China policy is now being made.

On the other hand, the particular steps the president has taken emphatically do not constitute such a policy. The navy first proposed evacuation of Tsingtao, to avoid conflict with the communist forces, as long as six months ago. The navy stand has been strongly opposed by the army.

The president has now settled the dispute in favor of the marines remaining at their posts. Perhaps the 3,000 men who are now at Tsingtao may even be re-inforced, if Vice Admiral Oscar C. Badger, commanding in China, considers this desirable. But the president's order does not require that Tsingtao be held at all costs. On the contrary, there is every reason to believe that unless American policy changes further, the marines will be withdrawn if and when a genuine communist offensive develops in the area.

The effort to expedite American aid to the non-communist forces in North China also has peculiar overtones. The energetic ECA administrator for China, Roger Lapham, has recently been in Washington, pressing a plan to by-pass Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek and to give direct aid to local Chinese forces resisting the communists. Lapham's main motive is that the China leader, General Fu Tso-Yi, is distrusted by the Generalissimo, and has therefore not been supplied very liberally. Apparently the germ of Lapham's idea is contained in the Truman order, although no one seems to know whether or how the idea will be implemented.

It is thus obvious why the two steps ordered by Truman do not, in and of themselves, constitute a China policy. Holding the ma-

rines at Tsingtao is a gesture, in the last analysis. And pressing for direct aid to such regional leaders as General Fu means encouraging the present tendency for these men to break away from the Generalissimo's national government. If this happens, the national government will collapse. China will be divided between a number of war lords and the communists. And the communists, being far the strongest and best organized single element, will then take on and destroy the war lords one by one, until they control all of China that matters.

The tragedy is that if the president had only ventured to beard Secretary Marshall in his den six months ago, instead of last week, an American effort in China might well have borne important fruit. While the state department stood for the policy of having no policy, the defense department, and especially the army, continued six months ago to advocate preventive American action. Now, however, the China situation has deteriorated to the point where even those who used to plead most strongly for action have begun to feel that American intervention will be a waste of effort and resources.

The gravity of this fact is hard to exaggerate. President Truman may want a positive China policy, but a policy can only be evolved, and even then China's friends assert that there is almost no hope. The prediction now is that the Chinese communists will eventually take all of China down to and including the Yangtze valley, which is approximately like Communist occupation of all of the United States as far as Kansas and Nebraska. By accepting this outcome, we may avoid a heavy investment in Chinese aid. But the altered world strategic situation will then demand far heavier investments elsewhere. (Copyright, 1948, New York Herald Tribune, Inc.)