

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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Take Milk Control from Ag Dept.

The state board of agriculture recommends that the administration of the milk control law be divorced from the state department of agriculture. Its reason is that such work interferes with the other duties of the director and the department to such a degree that they suffer.

The board's resolution is strictly in accord with the position held by this newspaper since 1943 when the change from a separate milk control board to the department of agriculture was made. Experience has proven that administering the milk control act is so time-consuming, so involved, so exposed to group pressures and criticism that it should not be saddled onto the director of agriculture.

This is not a criticism of Director Peterson who has done on the whole a good job of administration. He should be freed so he can apply his full time to directing the other functions of the department. They are important, being largely regulatory yet vital to the success of Oregon agriculture.

Few really understand the scope of work of the state department of agriculture. It occupies a field distinct in itself. Education and experimentation in agricultural science belongs to the state college. The federal department of agriculture has a wide variety of functions, and in some of them there is correlation with the state department. The work of the latter is handled in several major divisions:

Division of plant industry: This has charge of inspection of orchards, nurseries, gardens for detection and fight against pests and diseases; promulgates plant quarantines; determines standards for containers; enforces apiary, seed, vegetable peddlers' laws; inspect fruits for grade.

Division of animal industry: in charge of disease control and eradication; establish animal quarantines; enforce laws to combat stealing of livestock; regulate livestock auction markets; supervise county veterinarians.

Division of foods and dairies and weights and measures: administer food laws; prevent adulteration and misbranding of foods; administer laws regarding butter standards, bakery products, food lockers; inspect creameries, dairies; check scales in use to see that they are accurate.

Division of grain inspection: grading and weighing grain and hay.

Oregon state fair: full control of this annual exhibition and management of state fair grounds.

The details listed for the divisions are by no means complete. They deal very intimately with the business of agriculture and livestock production, giving protection to the consuming public and maintaining standards among producers. The laws and regulations are often highly technical, so the division head and the director must be competent to give prompt and intelligent answers to the multitude of questions that arise.

Oregon's laws have contributed much toward widening the market for Oregon products through establishment of standard grades. If these are relaxed the state suffers.

It should be evident from this recital that the

director of agriculture has a full load of duty without having to administer the highly contentious milk control law.

They Dress for the Weather

When the Astorian-Budget printed comments from certain out-of-staters critical of the dress of Oregon women in general and Astorians in particular, the fair sex of that city raised a protest. "T ain't so, they said; we don't either dress like Eskimos. They dress, so they said, to meet the weather, which admittedly is pretty rugged in wintertime at the mouth of the Columbia. We have stylish clothing and shoes underneath our slickers and galoshes, and our scarves keep our hair dry.

The clinching argument, however, is that the men like the women and are satisfied with the way they dress—a rule that holds good in any climate, among Eskimos too, it is presumed.

Those who live west of the Cascade summit will sympathize with the sisters down in Astoria. If the country's ten best-dressed women had to get out on the streets when a drenching so'wester is blowing the Pacific ocean in their faces, they'd quickly revert to the local style of outer garments. In Minnesota there isn't much beauty in fur-lined boots, but they're warm, and that's what counts in that climate.

Israel Makes Progress

The UN security council refused to admit Israel to membership in United Nations. The negative vote, however, really means only a postponement of favorite action. For the new state of the Jews in Palestine is making rapid progress toward establishing itself as an effective self-governing unit. It has been markedly successful in a military way, increasing the area over its original allotment in partition during the clash with the Arabs. It is raising the framework of government on foundations of a constitution; and its economic life is thriving.

Israel thus becomes a fact, regardless of attitudes toward its rights and ambitions. Arab opposition remains, but that is fractured by the late assumption of jurisdiction over Arab Palestine by King Abdullah of Trans-Jordan. And on-the-ground truth was developed over Jerusalem and for the Christians' holiday season. There is ground for belief that a settlement will be made covering the whole Palestine division. That done Israel could hardly be denied de jure recognition by the United States and other powers and admittance to United Nations.

Capt. "Matt" Peasley, sea captain of Peter B. Kyne's "Cappy Ricks", is dead over on Grays Harbor, age 83. He was a salty character whom Kyne raised to literary fame. We wonder if the diesel tugs and barges will produce the men that sail and steam did.

Maybe we're carrying this business - district face-lifting too far. Some of the new show windows don't have enough of a ledge left for anyone to sit on.

'Socialist' Steel Setup Being Studied

By Joseph and Stewart Alsop
WASHINGTON, Dec. 20 (AP)—A proposal which involves highly explosive issues is now being anxiously debated in the White House. It is proposed that President Truman recommend to congress legislation to permit the government to construct, own and operate steel plants in order to overcome, the desperate steel shortage.

Most sensible people have long since written off the word "socialistic" as meaningless nonsense, simply because conservatives in this country have for so long been in the habit of using the word to describe any measure which they disliked. But the plain fact is that if Truman approves this proposal, the cryers of "wolf, wolf" will actually have a real wolf to cry about, if only a very young and rather toothless wolf. For, quite aside from its faults or merits, legislation permitting the government ownership and operation of plants in the most basic sector of the economy does actually have genuine socialist overtones.

The chief sparkplug behind the move is young Assistant Secretary of the Interior Girard Davidson, who has been fighting a running battle with the great steel companies. Davidson has the backing of his boss, Julius Krug, and the enthusiastic, all-out support of the United Automobile Workers' Walter Reuther and the CIO's Philip Murray.

The line-up with-in the administration has not yet jelled. Davidson's natural allies would

be the president's most influential liberal advisers, his counsel, Clark Clifford, and Leon Keyserling, vice chairman of the council of economic advisers. Both these men have been considering and debating the proposal, but they have not yet fully made up their minds. Neither has President Truman.

Davidson and his allies defend the measure on strictly practical rather than ideological grounds. The steel men, in Davidson's words, "live in constant dread of a depression," and are therefore refusing to expand steel capacity sufficiently to meet the needs of defense and a full employment economy, and to head off further inflation. The steel shortage is ten million tons a year, and the steel industry expansion program of the steel industry, according to its government critics, only provides for an increased capacity of a totally inadequate million tons a year.

The Davidson group is therefore pressing the White House to ask congress for authorization to take the following steps: First, the steel men would be told how much steel the country needs. Then the steel corporations would be offered reconstruction finance corporation loans to build the necessary plants. And finally, if the steel men refuse to go along (which most of the major corporations almost certainly would) the government would be permitted to build and operate the plants itself.

Clearly, in strictly ideological terms, this proposal is a good many degrees to the left of anything ever submitted to congress in peace time by any president. Yet the fact is that such drastic action to deal with the steel shortage has a good deal of support, not only in the administration, but in congress and even among some business men.

Congressional support derives particularly from those who have been listening to the bitter wails of the small business men who cannot get enough steel to operate

their plants. Even Sen. Kenneth S. Wherry, republican chairman of the senate small business committee, whose convictions are hardly Marxist, is known to have uttered harsh words about the policies of the big steel companies. Wherry could hardly be expected to go along with anything so drastic as the measure sponsored by Davidson. But Sen. James E. Murray of Montana, who will replace Wherry as chairman if the committee is continued by the eighty-first congress, is known to favor some such legislation. So does Congressman Wright Patman, of Texas, a senior member of the house banking and currency committee.

As for the business men, any business man would normally recoil in instinctive horror from the sort of government action now being discussed. But Davidson has actually received a number of letters from big and little business men warmly commending his stand against the steel companies, simply because many businesses are in desperate straits for lack of steel.

The chances are that in the end President Truman, essentially a middle-of-the-roader, will not go as far as Davidson and his labor backers want. It is more likely that Truman will ask for mandatory allocation powers, and some sort of incentive device to increase steel production under private ownership and management.

Yet the fact that so far-reaching a proposal is now being seriously discussed in the White House is in itself deeply significant. It is a measure, for one thing, of the new influence in the administration of labor and the left. More fundamentally, it is a measure of the extent to which the concept of the public interest overriding private property rights has been accepted by the leadership of the democratic party.

THE BEARDED LADY



IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

we get on a common plateau? If so, then it might be said we will establish a communist state without the pain of revolution or the invoking of police state methods.

There is probably little reason to anticipate such a development. While the force for equalizing of incomes is strong, there are other pressures for differentiation. Thus, when the group on the top rung of the ladder finds others clambering up and getting their feet on it they will call for an extension and proceed to step ahead themselves. Parity for them means to preserve their differential. In a fluid economy covering thousands of occupations and services, there is bound to be great diversity. The only way you would get absolute parity would be in the police state; and even Russia had to give up the idea of equal distribution ("to each according to his needs").

I wouldn't advise the state employes to press too hard for wage parity with industry—they might get it to their hurt. It is true in periods of inflation, such as have prevailed for several years, salaries of those in public office do not move ahead as fast as those in unregulated industry. When the cycle turns, however, public employes are better off, for wage cuts are delayed with them.

There is one important point to remember also, and that is that neither individuals nor groups can be wholly immune to the swings of ill fortune. Social security depends on general economic health. When that is impaired suffering is general.

VFW Families To Have Party

Members of Marion post 661, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and their children will participate in an extended Christmas party today.

The children's events will begin at 3 p. m. in the VFW hall. Santa Claus will conduct the program and gift distribution, which is in charge of Mrs. M. E. Clemens.

The post's party will begin at 8 p. m. with Mrs. Genevieve Olson in charge. Program will include the "midget twins" of West Salem, electric guitar selections and a community sing. Gifts will be exchanged, followed by a luncheon prepared by the auxiliary, in charge of Mrs. Marie Hansen.

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Production of Silver Foxes Will Continue

Continuation of the luxury tax and increased importations from Russia have cut into the market for silver fox furs, but John A. Gardner of the Keizer district believes enough in their future popularity to plan still further improvement of his fox farm product, he said Monday.

Gardner last week received a new silver fox sire from Utah and said he would continue maximum production from his 25 females throughout 1949.

Silver fox pelts have accumulated in warehouses considerably the last few months, Gardner said, but current sales of the new crop in Seattle are expected to reduce stocks. The Gardner fox farm produced more than 100 pelts in 1948. Appropriate retail value of the pelts is \$10 to \$30. Two years ago the price ranged from \$30 to \$80.

Sunnyside—Glen Weaver, state supervisor of occupational, information and guidance, will tell of his recent trip to Japan at the Red Hill Agricultural club at 8 p. m. Tuesday, December 21, at Sunnyside school house. The public is invited to attend to hear Weaver.

Tele-fun by Warren Goodrich



"I'm holding this down—somebody didn't hang up the phone correctly." Unless you hang the telephone up right, your line is "busy." The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company.

Robin Hunters Given Suspended Sentence

Two Jefferson boys were halled into Marion county district court Monday on charges of shooting robins.

After cautioning the 15-year-olds against repeating the act, District Judge Joseph B. Felton suspended imposition of sentence for six months. The boys were arrested by state police Saturday near Sidney armed with a .22 rifle.

Pillows
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Work Begins On Top Floor of State Building

Erection of forms for the fifth and last story of the new state office building was begun Monday morning, as the construction superintendent said all outside walls, the floors and roof would probably be poured by late January. Setting of the marble exterior finish is to begin in early January.

By Monday night one-half of the fourth-story walls and the fifth floor had been poured, as well as the parapet at the south end of the building. The top story is to be set back from the Summer street front of the structure as well as from the north and south extremities, according to Floyd Garrett, superintendent for Sound Construction and Engineering company.

Down in the heart of the building, the finish concrete flooring has covered the plumbing and electrical and telephone conduits in the basement, and a portion of the finish has been placed in the first story.

Heating pipes are being installed along the ceiling in the ground story. Erection of masonry walls in the interior has been halted temporarily due to the weather.

Gervais Missionary Re-elects Officers

GERVAIS—Mrs. Sam H. Brown was re-elected president of Clara Jones Missionary society as were the other officers including Mrs. Buford Brown, vice president; Mrs. C. L. Jorgensen, secretary and Mrs. Robert Harper, treasurer. Members met at Mrs. Frank Holoubeks Wednesday, December 15. Guests were Mrs. O. C. Zastrow and Mrs. M. A. Phillips of Brooks and Mrs. J. H. Trussell of Gervais.

Devotionals were led by Mrs. Donald B. DuRette and Mrs. Kenneth Brown presented the topic. Gifts were made to provide a Christmas box for a needy family in the community. The annual Christmas gift exchange and party followed the business meeting. Mrs. Robert Harper assisted.

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Guard to Present Operation Films

Companies B and G of the Oregon national guard will present two programs today, in Turner high school at 10 a. m. and in Four Corners Community hall at 8 p. m.

Included will be several reels of motion pictures showing ways in which the national guards operate and its organizations. The same program will be presented at Keizer community hall December 28 at 7:30 p. m.

Diary of a Sidewalk Superintendent



Lots of new building going on in Salem right now but the one that interests me most is the new Stevens and Son Jewelry Store going up in the place we used to call The First National Bank Building. I stopped by today (always eager to help the fellows along) and talked to the men who are putting up that shiny, black glass-looking material. Found out that Al and Harry Erickson are handling this along with Burl Wright, Art Cramer and Walt Parker. They tell me those shiny slabs are made out of a new material called Vitrolite. Each one is set by hand and when the scaffolding comes down we'll know how good a building can look. On the front side (State Street) and on the Liberty Street side it'll be a solid shiny black wall all the way up to the ledge. It's a lot of work but it's worth it! I'll sleep good tonight, thinking about how I gave those boys a hand. Stevens and Son ought to thank me too.

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