

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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Salem Schools a Big Enterprise

Salem schools are indeed big business. They have increased in every respect particularly in the past few years. The number of pupils in the district. Consolidation has expanded the size of the district. New schoolhouses and additions have had to be built. Costs have risen. So the whole enterprise is one of large proportions.

To give the voters a better understanding of the business side of SD 24's affairs we have gotten certain statistics from the school clerk. Here for example are figures on the costs for the past five years, with the estimate for the coming year:

Year	Operation	Capital	Debt	Total
1944-45	\$ 608,351	\$ 43,286	\$ 63,364	\$ 715,002
1945-46	723,080	74,836	61,702	859,619
1946-47	812,651	253,616	59,987	1,126,255
1947-48	1,269,030	347,998	57,907	1,674,935
1948-49	1,465,945	154,905	109,752	1,724,582
1949-50	1,675,174	256,796	111,137	2,043,107

For the same years assessed valuations, tax rates and costs per pupil have risen as follows:

Year	Assessed Valuation	Tax rate in mills	Cost per pupil
1944-45	\$18,394,720	21.9	116.08
1945-46	18,743,268	23.8	136.94
1946-47	20,730,083	25.1	146.20
1947-48	25,839,956	29.7	181.99
1948-49	27,338,638	36.0	207.
1949-50(est.)	31,800,000	41.7	225.

With more children to be cared for in the immediate future the prospect of any reduction in the total cost is slim indeed. However costs may level off and the rise in valuation help to hold down the millage. The school administration and the schoolboard must be observant of economic conditions and do their utmost to "temper the wind to the shorn lamb" (the taxpayer).

Salem people want good schools and are willing to pay for them. But costs being what they are conservative policies are called for in the years ahead, lest in some period of tight pinch the voters reject the budget and put the schools in a difficult situation.

It is with this warning that The Statesman is willing to recommend that the voters in SD 24 vote to approve the budget at the school election next Friday, with its levy of \$717,475 in excess of the six per cent limitation.

Civil Rights in Oregon

The prediction by Portland's Urban League that putting fair employment practice principles into action in Oregon will not be too difficult appears to be borne out by a recent report on discrimination called "How Secure These Rights" by Ruth G. Weintraub.

Oregon's law to lessen discrimination against minority groups was passed by the 1949 legislature and will go into effect in July, and, if the data in the Weintraub book is any indication, the transition ought to be painless. This is one of the states commended by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, publishers of the report, for its progress toward equal rights for individuals, regardless of race or creed.

Elimination of all potentially discriminating questions from the joint application blank used for admission to Oregon colleges is cited as an example of anti-discriminatory action. However, Oregon is listed in the appendix as one of the states which still has unfair questions on application blanks for admission to the practice of certain professions.

In the number of organizations dedicated to rabble-rousing, Oregon rates low. The report lists the Anglo-Saxon Christian association in Portland as the only bigoted group active in the state. The "Free Press" of Redmond is

given as the only anti-semitic publication in Oregon.

The book does not discuss the status of discrimination in housing, public accommodations, credit associations and insurance companies in Oregon, although it cites instances of flagrant injustice in many other states. There are, for instance, 45 organizations which carry on outright anti-semitic or anti-negro propaganda throughout the United States. Restrictive covenants are still widely used by resorts and real estate groups. It's still hard for a Jew or a negro to get a college education, enter the professions, join a fraternal group or get proper insurance coverage in some parts of the country.

On the other hand, the balance sheet for 1948 shows that great strides against discrimination were made. The United Nations declaration on human rights, the president's committee on civil rights report, supreme court decisions on restrictive covenants and college admissions are all milestones of progress. Increase of states with FEPC laws, widespread publicity for intergroup tolerance, the statements on human and civil rights by the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America and the United Council of Church Women are evidence that people are taking democracy more seriously.

Stretching Freedom of Speech

The supreme court, all of whose members but one, Chief Justice Vinson, were appointed by President Roosevelt, turned in another of its no-frequent five-to-four decisions Monday. The court radicals supported Justice Douglas's opinion that the fine imposed by a Chicago court on a Gerald Smith type of rabble-rouser was void because the ordinance was invalid. The ordinance forbade speech stirring the public to anger an unrest or creating a disturbance. A minority of four had three separate dissenting opinions.

The ordinance may have been too inclusive, but the kind of speech the defendant was making was certainly one to inflame the public and create disorder, a typical anti-Semitic, anti-Russian diatribe. Douglas wrote that "a function of free speech under our system of government is to invite dispute." That may be true; but hardly to invite disorder. The government itself is trying communists in New York on charges of conspiracy to incite revolution (dispute?).

Justice Jackson said the opinion laid down a "dogma of absolute freedom for irresponsible and provocative utterance." He added: "There is danger that if the court does not temper its doctrinaire logic with a little practical wisdom it will convert the constitutional bill of rights into a suicide pact."

Previously Justice Holmes had written that the guarantee of free speech doesn't give anyone the right to cry "Fire" in a crowded theatre. The Douglas opinion comes perilously close to overruling the Holmes interpretation. Like the Murphy opinion giving carte blanche to all picketing as a form of free speech this goes too far. We can drown in our own freedoms. Organized society has the fundamental right to maintain order and freedom of speech must come within the limits of order.

Ex-Governor Mon Wallgren can give all his time to shooting billiards now. President Truman has withdrawn his nomination for a \$14,000 federal post. Another setback for government-by-crony.

Roseburg city council has voted to follow Eugene's lead on DST. Chain reaction—Portland to Salem to Albany to . . .

German Vote Rebukes Soviet Ticket

By J. M. Roberts, Jr.
AP Foreign Affairs Analyst

A lot of Germans in the Soviet occupation zone apparently have learned the Communist definitions for unity and justice and want no part of them.

Trying to rush through a "people's congress" for an "all-German government" to counter the western German government sponsored by the Allies, the Communists called an election, handpicked a list of delegates for a single ticket, labeled it "for the unity of Germany and a just peace treaty" and asked a yes or no vote.

They bragged that at least 10,000,000 of the 12,000,000 eligible would vote yes, and handed back the right to vote to former Nazis in order to take advantage of all the available German nationalist sentiment. They used the election tricks which have so often given the dictators 90 per cent or more of the vote. Berlin dispatches said that invalidated ballots had been counted "yes."

Announcement of the returns, after first scatterings showed the Communists were in trouble, was held up for 20 hours, an old political trick which allows for "adjustments."

Still 33.9 per cent of the Germans were shown to have said "no."

Taken in connection with the anti-Communist sentiment displayed by the Germans in the western zone since the war, the vote just about scuttled any Russian idea that they could produce a regime in the east which would obtain any serious consideration as an "all-German" government. On-the-spot interpretation was that they might be compelled to scrap their carefully planned strategy for the foreign ministers meeting in

Paris next week.

A few hours before the returns were announced the national democratic party paper, representing the Nazis whose aid had been recruited by the Communists, came out with victory claims. But soon the Soviet military press changed the tune to cries of "doublecross" directed at splinter parties who refused to go along. "Lying propaganda"

from the west also was cited as a reason.

These alibis are not likely to prove of much help to the German Communists who failed to produce, even though they did get a majority. If usual practice is followed, there will be a purge of Communist officials in Germany and a reorganization of the Social Unity party, formed under Communist compulsion soon after the war.

Literary Guidepost

By W. G. Rogers

DICKENS: HIS CHARACTER, COMEDY AND CAREER. By Hesketh Pearson (Harper: \$4) At work and play, Dickens was able, says Pearson, "to give more pleasure to more people than anybody else in history." That seems like a stupendous amount of pleasure, even for a writer whose "outstanding virtue" was his comedy. But this account of his life, significantly enough, will give more pleasure to more people than most biographies, and perhaps the fond author's claim is justified.

Dickens' childhood was anything but pleasurable. His improvident father taught him what a debtor's prison was like; his formal schooling ended in his 15th year; the job he had to take should have brutalized him instead of shaping and refining a comic spirit. Finally, he learned shorthand, made his way successfully as a reporter, and "Boz" appeared in print for the first time at the age of 21. Married, and with a sure hit in "Pickwick," he was launched upon a spectacular career.

As a writer it was apparently impossible for him to fail. But a big part of his equipment as a writer lay in his phenomenal ability to see and hear. He was

a sort of sublimated copycat; his friends, acquaintances, enemies, family, loves and the girls who didn't love him, too, were all caught on the wing and pinned to his pages. He himself was there; a daughter heard him mumble speeches before he wrote them down, and saw him jump up to grimace in the mirror to study the expressions needed for his fiction.

Thanks to his talent for mimicry, and also to his acting ability, his good looks, his weakness for practical jokes, his boisterousness and joviality, he was the life of the party. His interest in a stage career led in the final years to those readings in both England and America which were the platform sensation of the century, with mobs storming the doors, women fainting, crowds cheering themselves hoarse. It was this, says Pearson, which helped to shorten his life: in one reading of the murder of Nancy, from "Oliver Twist," his pulse could jump from 72 to 124. In a way he was his own best book. Lovable, generous, forgiving, independent, individualistic, he was a Dickens of a man, a superb subject for a biographer, and Pearson makes the most of it.



Would Wood Make a Diet? Mac Says No

By Henry McLemore

DAYTONA BEACH — Not since I looked in a mirror and saw myself in the first overcoat issued to me by the army, has anything so upset me as the recent predictions of Professor Eugene G. Rochow of Harvard.

The good professor, taking a long sojourn into the future, said that there will come a time when there will be no such things as meat and eggs on man's diet — his chief food will be derived from trees.

Also, that man's clothes will eventually be made of synthetic materials which can be turned into sugar and eaten. He prophesied, did the professor, that in the not too distant future a man would get up in the morning and breakfast off his pajamas.

I hope I am not around when Professor Rochow's predictions come true, because if I am, I am surely going to be hungry. You see, I am what is known as a half pajama wearer. I sleep in the bottoms only. That means I'll have to go to work half-starved. Not only that, but in cold weather I am a nightgown

man, and the professor doesn't even so much as hint that nightgowns are going to be edible. I'll drop to a living skeleton in the winter months.

And what about the ladies? Most of them (so I hear from friends) sleep in nightgowns. Professor, do you mean that in the world to come our women folk will have to go hungry until noontime when they will be able to get a little nourishment from their bodicoor caps, camisoles, and petticoats?

While the professor was making his predictions it seems to me that he might have told us what to serve with pajamas. Are they best with strawberries and cream, or should they be toasted for a few minutes to bring out their full flavor? And is there as much nourishment in flannel pajamas as in a pair of silk or broadcloth ones?

It will seem strange to go to a ball game and instead of ordering a hot dog about the sixth inning, to ask for a pajama sleeve with plenty of mustard but no onions.

Eating trees is something else again. Heads of homes will not be known as bread-winners but as tree-winners. Children of the rich will brag that they had redwood or mahogany two or three times a week, while the children of the less fortunate will have to admit that they have redwood only on Thanksgiving and Christmas, and are lucky to have scrub oak once a week.

I can see the menu of "41" in New York when the professor's predictions come true. There will be teak wood soup, hearts of cypress, ebony steaks, spruce patties, hemlock hamburgers, birch biscuits, poplar popovers, hickory hash, and persimmon pie.

There is bound to come a change in our table manners. Knives and forks will be discarded for hatchets and axes, and servants will not announce dinner but will walk into the drawing room and yell "Timber!"

There will be no more bread lines. In years of depression a man will be able to eat the mantelpiece, the chair rungs, and the garden gate. I won't really believe that such a diet for man has arrived until I see Prof. Rochow, comfortably stretched out under a Harvard elm, gnawing on a pajama sandwich and chasing it down with a swallow or two of baseball bat.

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Better English

By D. C. Williams

1. What is wrong with this sentence? "Everyone has their faults."

2. What is the correct pronunciation of "xylophone"?

3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Bacterias, backgammon, baptism, bauble.

4. What does the word "perusal" mean?

5. What is a word beginning with com that means "to call to remembrance"?

ANSWERS

1. Say, "Every one has his faults." 2. Pronounce si-lo-fo-n, i as in ice, both o's as in no, accent first syllable. 3. Bacteria.

4. Act of reading carefully. "He made a perusal of many biographies." 5. Commemorate.

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



Television saved our marriage . . . we used to be bored stiff with each other . . . now we hardly realize the other exists . . .

ON MERCK FLIGHT
HONOLULU, May 11.—(AP)—An eight-month-old girl was being flown 3,000 miles across the Pacific today to Honolulu's Tripler hospital for treatment of a blood vessel ailment. The infant, Janice Spina, was stricken aboard the transport Gen. E. D. Patrick as it was en route from Guam to Hawaii.

Flegel was a white hope of a considerable group of democrat legislators, but they are afraid now he is hexed as chairman of the subcommittee which reported out HB 436, the bill for old age assistance. This is the bill which Pearson, in a political play, called on McKay to veto.

To this observer it looks as though Johnny Hall had both Pearson and Newbry "on their marks" ready to start whichever one gives better promise of beating Governor McKay.

But what I haven't found out yet is what payroll Monroe Sweetland is on. He turned over the Newport paper which he was publishing to Bud Forrester, came to Salem for the legislature and has been devoting all his time to politics — democratic politics that is.

Is he on the federal government payroll? Or on the payroll of the democratic national committee? Or on the payroll of CIO-PAC?

The public ought to know.

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