

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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The Register-Guard's policy is the complete and impartial publication in its news pages of all news and statements on news. On this page, the editors of the Register-Guard offer their opinions on events of the day and matters of importance to the community, endeavoring to be candid but fair, and helpful in the development of constructive community policy.

A NEWSPAPER IS A CITIZEN OF ITS COMMUNITY

SPEEDING TRUCKS

OREGON CITY gives the Associated Press its latest tale of traffic horror in Oregon. Four people are burned to death after a head-on collision with a speeding truck on the Pacific highway near that city. The reports indicate that the driver of the truck allowed his attention to be taken from the road in front of him by a loose board on his trailer. His truck drifted into the path of a passenger car coming in the opposite direction. Of course, the smaller car was crushed like an eggshell, and the four people in it were burned to a cinder by the fire which resulted.

The Oregon City accident comes just on the eve of putting into effect the new traffic law which abolishes formal speed limits in Oregon and gives the police discretion to determine whether speed is reckless or not. We believe this to be a good law because it gives the police power to adjust their action to the occasion. There are many curves and crossings on the highways where it is more reckless to drive at 25 miles an hour than at 50 on the straightaway, and the new law gives the police power to get at these situations. Much will depend on the intelligent application of the new law by the police if it is to promote traffic safety.

But such an accident as this one at Oregon City raises the question as to whether the police should not make some special effort to prevent speeding by trucks and heavier vehicles. A heavily loaded truck at 40 or 50 miles an hour is dangerous at any place on the highway because it can get out of control much more easily and because in a collision there is so little chance for any lighter vehicle.

On Decoration Day we noted a heavy oiltruck with a trailer swinging around the sharp curves at Judkins Point at a speed of at least 35 miles an hour. The driver evidently was an expert. No doubt he was in a hurry to get his day's work done and have some little share in the holiday. But for all his skill, the sway of his load carried the trailer well past the middle of the roadway. Such operation is reckless beyond question.

Most truckers are more careful. Bus companies and truck companies, we know, preach safety to their drivers, but they sometimes forget that the greatest danger is to other and smaller vehicles. Unless high speed driving by this class of vehicles can be well controlled there may have to be some definite limit put upon this class of operation.

\$1,000 PER CRISIS

SINCE it takes only a little more than 10,000 names at the present time to constitute a referendum on any act of the legislature, and since 10 cents a signature is the going rate for signatures, one might say that it costs approximately \$1,000 to nullify any legislative act for 18 months or more, which is rather a low price, considering that in some cases, as for instance that of higher education, such action may produce a crisis.

At midnight Friday night, it appeared that three bills passed by the last legislature had been blocked by the petition pushers—the bill fixing a tax of 10 cents a pound on oleomargarine, the bill appropriating \$1,181,000 from general funds to supplement the millage for the schools of higher learning, the bill closing the Rogue river to commercial fishing.

The bill creating the state police department alone seemed to have escaped the malice of the pushers. This is something to be grateful for largely. The escape of the police bill is due largely to the personal efforts of Governor Meier in its behalf. It is too bad the governor did not see fit to use his powerful influence in behalf of the other measures, even though he is less interested in them as personal matters. The governor missed an opportunity to show himself a broad-minded, generous leader.

In education the crisis will be genuine. The state board of higher education has had all the real facts in the higher education situation before it and has made every effort to save every dime that can be saved without serious curtailment of functions. Its utmost has produced savings of about \$700,000. The filing of the referendum petition, since it ties up the money, will make it necessary to save approximately another \$600,000. This will come, but it will come only with drastic economies.

The nullification of the oleo bill should only make the dairymen of Oregon more determined to protect their industry. Likewise the sportsmen of the state will be all the more determined to see the closing of the Rogue to ruthless fishing made permanent.

The most significant feature of the situation, however, is the fact that a mere handful of people can nullify over long periods of time any act of the legislature, however wise or well considered. The 10,000 signatures required to make a petition valid is a very small percentage of the citizenship of Oregon, but even this figure does not reflect the true situation. Any group of half a dozen people, any one concern, or even one person can block any measure by putting up \$1,000 and sending out professional petition pushers.

Would it help to increase the number of signatures required? Would it help to forbid the use of paid pushers? Could the paying of pushers really be prevented? Some remedy is needed because the abuse of the referendum privilege is making Oregon ridiculous.

FOR CHEAPER HOMES

A SPEAKER before the convention of the National Association of Real Estate Boards, at Baltimore, predicts that in the near future homes will be built in a week's time and will retail for as little as \$4,000, even in big cities where costs are high. This, he says, will be made possible by mass production, in which outside walls and partitions will be built in sections and assembled in vast quantities.

One can only hope that the gentleman is right.

The cost of building a house today is something to make a man of modest means think twice, or three times, before he undertakes it. The percentage of home-owners would increase enormously if such a reduction were put in effect.

Architects probably will fear that such mass production houses would sacrifice aesthetic values. But one has only to visit some of the cheaper subdivisions that flank our biggest cities to realize that many, many builders have already sacrificed such values. The ugliness that can be built into a low-priced home today is appalling. The mass production scheme could hardly make it worse.

BUT HE'S STILL IN TRADE

SO Sir Thomas Lipton has finally been elected a member of England's Royal Yacht Squadron—after all these years!

Sir Thomas has been England's best known yachtsman for a long, long time. But the Royal Yacht Squadron would have none of him. Even when the late King Edward VII interceded for him, the club refused to make him a member. Sir Thomas, you see, was a "tradesman"—and hence the aristocracy could not recognize him.

Now he is in, a duly qualified member. It may be that his years and his honors have taken the curse off the fact that he has earned his own living; or it may be that the English aristocracy is loosening up a bit. Either way, the mere fact that he was excluded for so long casts a revealing light on the mental attitude of the upper-class Englishman.

Fathers who think they are making a sacrifice to keep sons at college never consider the price our dumb animals pay to furnish the coonskins, pigskins and sheepskins.

The Lindbergh's plan to fly the Pacific together. This time the "We" will have more than a polite figurative meaning.

Times may be hard, but they never seem to be too hard in Oregon but what there is employment (at ten cents a name) for petition pushers.

McGurk says he has no complaint only why did the city hall have to try to fall down THIS summer.

Speaking of Spanish omelets, how about the scramble in Alfonso's old kingdom?

WHAT OTHER EDITORS THINK

FIDDLER'S GREEN

(Corvallis Gazette-Times)

ACCORDING to the advanced announcements Albert R. Wetjen, Oregon's famous novelist, has produced another book. Those who read his "Way for a Sailor" will be glad to know that it is another sea story. No less a critic than Carl Sandburg is out with a statement to effect that Wetjen's new book is the most beautiful sea story he has ever read with the exception of Moby Dick, and that's about as high praise as anybody could give. The title of the new book is "Fiddler's Green," which Webster defines as the Fiddlers' place for sailors, where their credit is perpetually good and where there is always a lass, a glass, and a song.

Mr. Wetjen was born in London in 1900 and left school at the tough age of 12 to continue his education. He did not have the handicap of a professional school of journalism behind him and hence he became a proficient and interesting writer. At 14 he went to sea, and in the next two years was wrecked twice, once by fire and explosion in the Bay of Fundy, and another time by fog off the coast of Newfoundland, where the crew lived for five weeks in a hut built of timbers from the ship. He has made trips to Africa. At the age of 17 he enlisted in the British army and after the armistice went to sea again. His travels have carried him to all the principal ports of the world. His stories have appeared in many American magazines, and have been re-issued in various anthologies. In 1926 he won the O. Henry memorial prize for the best short story of that year. His novel, "Way for a Sailor," recently showed at the White House as a talking point in the discussion of the tariff. His story "The Fiddler's Green" was especially fitting that John Gilbert should have this part for he too was a former Portland boy.

Wetjen's style is short, crisp, direct, and picturesque, and we shall await his forthcoming book with interest.

WASHINGTON LETTER

By ROSEY DUTCHER

NEA Service Writer

WASHINGTON, June 6.—Although the Hawley-Smoot tariff has been lambasted with great fervor as an alleged contributory factor in the depression, there is also a school of thought which holds that the cure can best be found in a bigger and better application of the protective tariff theory.

This point of view is expressed by George B. Lockwood, former secretary of the republican national committee and the editor and publisher of the Muncie Evening Press in Indiana.

"The prosperity of this country could be completely restored," writes Mr. Lockwood, "if the many hundreds of thousands of men now out of work in this country because of their inability to compete against cheap labor products being brought in from abroad were given a chance to supply the home market."

There are at least 50 large lines of production in which the competition of cheap labor products has decreased or destroyed American employment. There will be an awakening to this in due season, which will be pretty hard on the party that goes out in 1932 arguing that the way to increase prosperity is to further destroy American employment by buying foreign goods whose cheapness is based upon the cheapening of the worker.

Lockwood mentions oil and lumber as two examples. "We are admitting duty free more than \$150,000,000 worth of foreign oil and oil products," he says, "while our own oil fields are paralyzed. It would not be well for Mr. Hull to go to the western oil fields and tell them that this tariff should be reduced below zero rather than increased. The same thing applies to the 200,000 men out of work in our timber producing areas while we are importing vast quantities of foreign lumber and pulpwood carrying little or no tariff."

"As to the decline in motor exports mentioned by Mr. Hull, it is possible that the establishment of a tariff on motor cars imported from Europe would be worth of foreign oil and oil products," he says, "while our own oil fields are paralyzed. It would not be well for Mr. Hull to go to the western oil fields and tell them that this tariff should be reduced below zero rather than increased. The same thing applies to the 200,000 men out of work in our timber producing areas while we are importing vast quantities of foreign lumber and pulpwood carrying little or no tariff."

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SIDE GLANCES



"Now go ahead and order anything you like—this is on me."

DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

GREATER EFFICIENCY REDUCES EXPENSE OF CARE IN HOSPITAL

By DR. MORRIS FISHER

Editor, Journal of the American Medical Association, and of Hygiene, the Health Magazine

THE people of the United States are not the only ones who are concerned with the gradual increase in the cost of medical care and particularly with the cost of hospital care. The problem is concerning the whole world.

The development of hospitals, of medical science, of modern advances in medical science both for diagnosis and treatment, and above all the necessity for two or three workers for each individual worker who was formerly employed in a large part of the increased cost.

Recently, Dr. M. Setz has analyzed the reasons for the increase in the cost of hospital care in Germany. He says that the principal sources of expenditure in a large hospital are the catering, medical treatment, nursing administration and the maintaining of special departments.

Thus the hospital that is able to buy food in large quantities and store it can cater more cheaply than one which has not adequate storage facilities. Modern electric devices in the kitchen enable the hospital to operate with many less employees than are necessary when the dish washing, vegetable slicing, and similar procedures must be done by hand.

The cost of nursing is being reduced by group nursing and by similar plans for dividing the service of one nurse among several patients.

Cleaning in the hospital demands a considerable number of employees. If corners are rounded off, if radiators are properly recessed and if the building is equipped with the cleaning question in mind, a much smaller number of ward maids and orderlies can be used than in institutions in which this point has not been kept in mind.

Modern hospitals are being constructed more and more with the idea of reducing the number of workers and in this way distributing the cost. Patients used to be sensitive on the subject of wards in hospitals. People who are ill and who are in a hospital are free with their funds held that in times of illness they had to make an extra effort in order to have a private room in the hospital.

In modern hospitals, arrangements are being made to care for two, three, or four patients in a room especially adapted for the purpose with sliding covers so that almost a maximum of privacy is furnished at a minimum of expense.

Large wards, containing from 10 to 20 beds, are now found only in charity hospitals, and even here there is a tendency to build the hospital in such a manner as to provide some privacy. When four patients occupy one small ward, they are able to save on the cost of nursing and on the other costs associated with hospital care.

MAIL BAG

ABOUT STATE POLICE

EUGENE, Ore.—(To the Editor).—

Due to my recent article in this paper I have received a number of personal letters regarding the state police problem, many of which are very insulting and unreasonable. I do not care to burn this valuable column by converting it into a mud-slinging gallery, nor do I care to bring a thing of such a nature into this into the field of prejudiced personal arguments. As I cannot answer each individually I will attempt to give a statement of organized facts which I hope will cover every point thoroughly and close this matter.

I cannot, however, cover the subject properly without briefly referring to the sheriffs, constables and city police. In the United States these offices are filled by election for a term of one, two, three, four or five years. The sheriff or constable may succeed himself in office but he must appeal to the voters of his county or township periodically for reelection. Special qualifications for the work performed are not necessary and these considerations enter little into their selection. These officers have civil duties to perform in addition to their police duties. Their spheres of jurisdiction are limited and their activities are usually more or less individual with but faint traces of co-ordination and co-operation.

In the period of history before the advent of the automobile, the criminal activities were confined by a lack of mobility to small areas. Because of this condition it was relatively easy for the individual police officer to keep his eye on those of criminal propensities and observe each stranger in the community. For the same reason, it was not difficult to trace the movement of persons suspected of crime. Thus the officer chosen by election and without special qualifications was able to give fairly satisfactory service. I say "fairly" advisedly, naturally, having in mind the feuds and disorders that developed in states like Kentucky and West Virginia, and in Pennsylvania where industrial disputes brought about disturbances that amounted nearly to civil wars.

The need for state police can clearly be seen, due to the fact that increased transportation facilities have created a condition where, by his mobility, the criminal can live quiet in one community and commit his depredations in another. His ability to strike and get away with small chances of being recognized or having his movements traced by individual police officers whose jurisdiction is limited to a small city or county, has driven home to the people the necessity of co-ordinated police organization. In the near future I believe the term "state police" will bear an entirely different significance from what it does today. At present, these conditions have made it so very apparent that the rural districts can no longer depend upon an untrained individual to attend to their protection that many state police forces with the primary purpose of giving police protection to areas outside municipal jurisdiction, and with the secondary function of co-operating with the various police authorities of the state, giving aid where more than normal police power is required, as frequently occurs during disasters by fire or explosion, during threatened lynchings, or where local authority is not sufficiently strong to maintain a law of order.

The principal reasons for inefficient police work throughout the United States are to be found in the following conditions: (1) unsatisfactory personnel; (2) inefficient administration; (3) lack of co-ordination. Let us begin by examining the reason for the first condition. We find that the compensation of a policeman is small; that the field of advancement is extremely limited; that in a large number of instances there is little certainty of steady employment due to political displacement; and there is little or no assurance of comfortable and honorable retirement after the age of five or six years. The young man who is honest, intelligent, ambitious and industrious cannot be expected to look upon the police calling as it is now constituted, with any degree of favor.

The state is the only subdivision of government that can remedy all the evils found in our present police system. A state-wide police organization would provide a field of advancement that would appeal to the honest, ambitious and energetic young man as a field of service. It could hold out to him the assurance of a pension at the age of fifty, if he is disabled, and an honorable retirement in his old age. It could provide proper training by establishing special schools for recruits and executives. It could co-ordinate the efforts of the various police forces in the state, control to the extent that crimes committed in the rural districts would be given as much consideration as those in the larger cities. It would be able to maintain a corps of expert specialists, ready for service in any part of the state where their services might be required. Such an organization seems to me to be the only logical solution to the present police problem.

JAMES O'BRIEN

TO MR. KEENEY

EUGENE, Ore.—(To the Editor).—

I have discovered since reading your letter that I am not a patriotic citizen, and that for "several years" I have "escaped" with only half of the taxes I should have paid. All because I have been so busy with my work that I have not had time to consider a fair assessment, and I get the blame.

The facts are these: I have been a taxpayer in Lane county for many years, and have certainly made no effort to shift my tax responsibilities.

The several years you speak of in connection with this property have been only three. The first three years, when the house was owned by my father, the house was built by him, and the following it was owned by him. I don't know who did the first assessing out here and I can't be blamed for that. I do know that I have been at home each year when the assessor called, since owning the property, and certainly have had the privilege of investigation and on two occasions, you accompanied your deputy.

We were entitled to cheaper taxes when we came outside the city and expected to find them so we had not thought of robbing the county of its

Week-End Social News And Club Items Given

By MARIAN LOWRY

THE monthly meeting of the Welfare League was held Friday morning. Plans were made for the group's summer work. A number of projects is planned, including some work for the children's farm home.

The next meeting will come on July 8 at the Osburn hotel at nine-thirty o'clock in the morning.

MEETING POSTPONED

The meeting of the Altar society of St. Mary's Catholic church to have been Thursday was postponed.

HOSTESSES FOR CLUB

Mrs. David Link, Mrs. John Seavey, Mrs. H. A. Scherwing and Mrs. Nate Hill were hostesses for the meeting of the Sans Souci club on Friday, entertaining the group at luncheon at the Osburn hotel. After the luncheon, cards were played. Two weeks from Friday the club will be entertained by Mrs. Seavey at her farm home in the afternoon. Hands of members going in the evening for a picnic dinner.

COTERIE MEETS

The last meeting of the year for the Coterie club was held Friday when Mrs. W. A. Henri entertained the group at the home of Mrs. J. M. Almont. The group planned to hold a picnic during the summer with Mrs. L. S. Hunter, Mrs. O. S. Fletcher, and Mrs. W. C. Landru as the committee in charge. New officers of the club are Mrs. W. C. Landru, president, Mrs. W. A. Henri, secretary, and Mrs. L. E. Nathanson, treasurer.

TEA IS FRIDAY

About thirty attended the tea given by the Tri Psi club, group of Delta Delta Delta mothers, at the home of Mrs. Walter O. Swan on Friday afternoon. The affair was given on the lawn. Mrs. N. Patrick Harbour, Mrs. John Jay Rogers, Mrs. Charles Adams, and Mrs. Raymond Walsh presided.

YOUR CHILDREN

By OLIVE ROBERTS BARTON

IT is very hard for a gentlemanly boy to be happy in an environment where he is not appreciated. It is almost as difficult for a lady-like girl to get along with her friends who have not been trained in manners.

But I think the boy has it particularly hard because in so many communities it is considered a stigma among growing youths to possess any quality that reflects culture.

How many nice little claps are perfectly miserable having to run the gauntlet of their schoolmates' jeers? A good many thousands, you may be sure. It is not only cruel, but dangerous. Either such a child will not be able to stand the perpetual punishment and will turn roughneck himself, or he will develop a bitter complex about life at an age when effort should be pleasantly met and rewarded instead of being made harder.

Once a little boy having moved to a new neighborhood found himself in this dilemma. At first he thought his hazing was only the experience of the rookie in the ranks. His father had prepared him for it, so summing up his courage and toughness, his muscles flexed about life at an age when effort should be pleasantly met and rewarded instead of being made harder.

One day a greaser called up this boy's mother and told her that if something wasn't done about it, he would call up the police himself. There was only one thing to do, as it turned out—that was to remove the boy from that school. He was sent to a private school nearby, although the family could not very well afford it. But there he found happiness.

This happened years ago; that boy is now one of America's most important young men, for he succeeded in his early life, and the others are.

Yesterday a mother brought this

just does, when we paid what the former owner was paying.

You have the advantage of the taxpayers, inasmuch as "right or wrong, you are right," and anyone who dares to disagree with you is a pretty poor sort of a human being.

I am wondering just how many people in the city of Eugene and Lane county do not feel that they are paying enough taxes.

There is nothing more to say except that I requested the paper in my former letter to use my full name and in some way it was overlooked.

EDNA V. BLACKBURN.

IF NOT "SALOON"—WHAT?

EUGENE, Ore.—(To the Editor).—

The saloon hasn't a friend left!

No one has a good word for it!

We are to repeal the law that put the saloon out of business ("a very old law, very bad indeed, as we are told"), but the saloon never came back.

"Nobody wants the saloon!"

The New York World of January 25, 1929, made this statement: "Representatives of brewers and distillers told the World correspondent today that their principals would be willing to pay \$1,250,000 in federal taxes to return to pre-prohibition production."

These brewers and distillers, being good business men, would hardly be willing to pay a billion dollars in taxes unless they expect to take many times a billion dollars out of the pockets of the American people.

Very generous of you to pay the taxes, Mr. Brewer, but we know where the money will come from, out of the pockets of the working man before he gets home with his wages, out of the pocketbook of his wife before it ever gets there.

Three, four, five, six billion dollars worth of liquor to be sold and no saloon to sell it in? Where then should it be sold?

In nice, pretty "taverns" like they have in Quebec, where men can sit and be served as long as they pay.

In the old saloon men had to stand and drink with their feet on the brass rail—and when they couldn't stand any longer they were supposed to go home.

Men can hold much more when sitting than standing—that's the difference between a saloon and a tavern.

Four billion dollars worth of liquor (more or less) make the nation drunk regardless of how it is sold.

MALCOLM WOOD.

Full Fashioned Pure Silk Ladies' Hose—Silk-to-Top, Regular \$1.50 NOW 89c BUSTER BROWN SHOE STORE

HOPE Plate Cleanser Cleans False Teeth

Stevenson's

With June Just a Month Away it's Time To Think of

Wedding Announcements

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Summer weather brings out the prints. Evening gowns of cool color in sheer chiffons seem suited perfectly to the soft moonlight and sweet music of the dance. One of the prettiest of dance dresses, pictured here, has a mint green background with soft brown flowers shading from a medium brown to the softest tint of beige. It has tiny straps over the shoulders and a long, flowing skirt. A huge flower of the chiffon is placed high at one side of the back and the skirt is tiered and reaches to the floor.

was smart, polite and of unusually high caliber. They lay in wait as he passed, tripped him, called him "high-bait," "baby," rifled his pockets, and threw his books in the mud.

He never said a word at home, because—well, because he thought if he did he would deserve all the names they called him, perhaps, or because he knew his father detested a squealer. There was no one to be found for a real friend, although the family made desperate attempts to find a kindred soul to chum with.

One day a greaser called up this boy's mother and told her that if something wasn't done about it