

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

(Published every evening and Sunday)
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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

BOARD AND PRESS

WHAT is the relation of the state board of higher education to the public, and especially to the public as it is represented by the press? Is the state board in every sense of the word a public body, or is it to be considered a semi-private body administering certain very special public business? To what extent is the public entitled to listen to its deliberations and to have the opinions and statements and votes of members reported in the press? To what extent may the board use the device of "executive sessions" to facilitate its business?

These questions came in for some rather frank discussion at the board meeting in Portland the other day. The board had been holding rather extensive executive sessions for some time. Newspaper men were growing mighty restless. Finally they were admitted on the argument that the closed sessions were bound to create a bad impression with the public, but the chairman, Mr. Starr laid down the stipulation that the newspaper men were to print proceedings only when the board signified its permission; otherwise they were to regard all happenings as matters of confidence.

Newspaper men were perfectly willing to extend a reasonable degree of "confidence," but they made instant and rather forcible objections to the statement that they were present only "by courtesy of the board," and some of them insisted that the relation be clarified at once.

To the newspaper man's view the board is an entirely public body and nothing else. It combines certain administrative and legislative duties, but the fact that it is dealing with higher education does not mean that it is a bit different from any common school board or city council or commission created by legislative act. Strictly speaking, any newspaper man or any member of the public can demand admittance to all sessions, not as a matter of courtesy, but as a RIGHT. This right has been tested too often to admit dispute.

Of course there is a rule of reason in all things. In its administrative capacity any school board sometimes is compelled to discuss the personal affairs and qualifications of employees, and very often it would not be fair to individuals to publish such discussions. Sometimes, in the heat of public bodies, there are differences between members which can be straightened out behind closed doors, if the differences are not aggravated by rushing into print.

We do not believe any newspaper man or citizen will object to a reasonable use of the privilege of "executive session." A rule of mutual courtesy and confidence must govern all human relations if there is to be progress. But the board ought to hold all its sessions, so far as possible in public, and when it is acting officially on matters of policy it has no right to dictate what shall or what shall not be put in print. The public is entitled to know not only the results of every deliberation, but the reasons for the results. It is entitled to know a great deal of the attitudes and opinions of all the members if it is to repose in them great trust.

On the whole, the relation between the board and the press has been very cordial, and the very willingness of the board to discuss these matters calmly with the newspaper men shows a desire to have a proper contact through the press with the public. During the recent protracted sessions, Portland has undoubtedly been the most convenient place for meetings, but it is to be hoped that in time the board can hold its stated sessions in its own headquarters at Salem where all its records and rulings are accessible to the public.

The biggest obstacle the board has faced has been the ignorance of the public as to the size and complex nature of its problems. The press may not always see eye to eye with the board in interpreting situations, actions, results. But if higher education is to be redeemed in Oregon it can be done only with the co-operation of the public and the press.

COMMANDER EICHLER

CHAS. S. M. EICHLER, of Eugene, is the new commander of the G. A. R. in Oregon and the whole town rejoices with Mr. Eichler in the honor. We are all of us interested in the affairs of the Grand Army. Though its numbers are growing very small, it is still great in spirit, and it is no reflection upon the younger veteran organizations to say that there is only one Grand Army. Mr. Eichler is a fitting leader. Never has he lost the buoyant courage which carried him and his comrades to war under the leadership of Abraham Lincoln. Those were the days when there were no "ifs" or "buts" in the ideals of patriotism. The men of '61 have left us a heritage in decisive thinking. We still need their vigor.

The G. A. R. will have a prosperous year under Commander Eichler.

NOT GOOD POLICY

LAW may be on the side of the McKenzie river boating interests which have carried to the federal courts an appeal from the act of the last legislature which closed the McKenzie river above Blue river to boat fishing for an indefinite period. It is a question whether the law discriminates against the boatmen as a class. Only the judges can tell us whether the legislation is technically correct.

Anyhow under a series of injunctions and appeals, the boat fishermen will probably be able to gain the delay in putting the law into effect which is what they really want. But as time goes on the boatmen may find that there is a high price on this delay as a matter of policy, because the earnest opponents of boat fishing will remember the litigation as an affront.

The law closing the McKenzie to boats only above Blue river was a compromise which was suggested by the Lane county sportsmen and there

is reason to believe it prevented the passage of a law which would have closed practically all of the desirable stretches of the river to boats. It was suggested as a device which would give the game commission time to determine by comparative studies whether boat fishing is really as big a factor as it is supposed to be in depleting fish.

Our own view of the matter has always been the blame put on boat fishing was largely a matter of prejudice. We believe that scientific studies will prove that the real reason for depletion has been in the defective methods of re-stocking with fish. The experience of this season would seem to bear us out. Large fish were used in re-stocking last fall. This summer the McKenzie fishing has been better than in many seasons. Presumably if constructive policies are followed, the time will come when there will be enough fish for all fishermen whether they roll the line out of the brush or take it easy in boats.

But the boatmen have not built good will except with their big city customers by taking the case to the courts. There is no ill will toward the boating industry in this part of Oregon. We recognize its money value as a business. But we can't help feeling that in order to settle the ancient arguments for all time on an amicable basis, it would have been better to give the new law a two year test.

MEDFORD INQUIRES

NOTING the success of the Passion Play in the neighboring city of Ashland and in Eugene, the always interesting Medford Mail-Tribune asks its citizens why Medford can't have more of the notable musical and dramatic attractions which it used to enjoy in the past. The editors of the Mail-Tribune are not quite ready to concede that the radio and the movies have killed the "road shows" for keeps, or that the deflection of the Southern Pacific's fastest trains to the Cascade route should keep noted artists from visiting a community where they have enjoyed profitable and appreciative audiences in the past.

We wish we could agree with the Mail-Tribune's optimism, but we fear that not only most of the small cities such as Eugene and Medford and Salem, but a great many of the larger ones such as Portland and Spokane and Seattle will never regain the heavy artistic and dramatic travel of the past. True, a great many people would still pay \$2 to \$5 to hear Mme. Schumann-Heink or to see George Arliss in person even though they can hear the great contralto on the radio for nothing or see Mr. Arliss in the talkies for 50 cents, but so many would stay away that profits have gone from travelling showmanship.

What's the answer? Are the people of the provinces to see living art only when they can afford a trip to New York? Give the movies and the radio their due. While they may have killed road performances, they have introduced millions of people, even in the most remote farms and mountain camps, to first class art. There is a greater "market" for the fine arts than ever in history. We do not believe people are going to be content with the "canned products." They are going to begin to express themselves.

Here in Eugene we have certain advantages being close to the University, and thanks largely to the loan of University leadership we have been enabled to do many things for ourselves. We haven't a Chinaman's chance of hearing the Paulist choir more than once in a decade, but in the Gleasons (embracing more than 50 trades and professions) we have a home organization which is capable of handling the best music. The little theater movement, like all such efforts, has involved plenty of grief, but it has built up a nucleus of competent actors and it is getting on its feet. The tri-ennial pageants are spectacular proof of latent native talent. Here and in many other towns we are merely feeling our way along, but there is reason to believe that in a music loving, drama loving nation, the civic theater, the civic orchestra, and the civic choir will in time be as important as the professional shows.

Nor are these undertakings without deep social and economic significance. Industrially we are undoubtedly moving into a period of shorter hours, better distribution of wealth and wages, but we hear questions as to what we are going to do with the greater mass leisure, with the great numbers of people whom machine production has displaced. Is there not room for a wide spread of profitable productivity in the development of home arts.

One of the projects at the University of Oregon which has been hard hit by the financial crisis of the schools was an extension program designed to carry into every part of Oregon the guidance which these enterprises need to get a start. Some day that program will be achieved. Contradictory as it may seem, prosperity may come only when the dollar ceases to be the goal of American thought.

INTANGIBLES TAX HIT

ALTHOUGH anything which affects state revenues at this time is likely to have a serious effect on state financing, the suit which has been filed to test the constitutionality of the intangibles tax may be very helpful in the long run by clearing up the rights of the state to draw revenue from this class of property.

Intangibles ought to be taxed, at least on income. There is no reason why evasions by this class of property should be allowed to continue. But there is a question as to whether the 5 per cent tax fixed by the last legislature is not too heavy, and there is a question as to whether income from intangibles can be taxed more than other income.

There is the danger that in the efforts to reach a class of property which has generally been considered rather inaccessible, actual injustice will be done. Income taxes are the fairest of all taxes when properly graduated. But when taxes take the nature of a penalty rather than a distribution of a public burden they tend to defeat themselves. Industry can be hampered by penalizing its financial. Taxes which penalize usually cheat their purpose by compelling new evasions.

In most states which tax intangibles it has been found that a very moderate tax which allows for the taxing of basic property and which is proportioned to other income taxes will produce more revenue than a tax which is unsound.

For a man who has been making a quiet personal visit to Europe, Tourist Andrew Mellon seems to have attracted a whooping lot of publicity.

And Thereby Hangs a Tail!



WHAT SOME THINKERS THINK

—Compiled by CLAY E. PALMER—
 Pastor of First Congregational Church

STANLEY HIGH, editor of Christian Herald, a young man and a progressive thinker: "On my recent trip around the world I started out with the idea that perhaps a synthesis of the world's great faiths was necessary. But when I saw what is happening in the Far East I came to believe that there is no other name under Heaven by which men are changed and saved except by the name of Christ. It is the only way in which the world can walk in the way of Peace."

George Selig, foreign correspondent for Chicago Tribune for ten years: "It is precisely in the youth movement that I see the worst peril for Europe. Mussolini and Stalin and Hitler are preaching a children's Crusade and arming them mentally and physically. . . . The youth movement, it seems to me, is now so far corrupted that little can be done with it. Even if we suppose that the Communist or the Fascist regime will give way to Liberal government, it will take a generation to undo the evil of another generation. Meanwhile the danger of war grows daily; the really great war for which youth is being prepared."

Raymond B. Fosdick, distinguished New York lawyer: "A national tariff act, passed in utter disregard of its consequences abroad, is today an anachronism. It is a throwback to the age of savage conquest. The whole question of tariff belongs in the international field. It is a problem of common counsel and joint consideration. As a weapon of attack to be used by one nation against the rest, it would be fished with R. N. T. and poison gas. The world must submit to economic disarmament as well as military disarmament."

Bishop Francis J. McConnell, president of Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, who has just returned from studying conditions in India: "A third influence coming forth from India upon the life of the whole world may arise from India's making common cause with all peoples of color, so-called, the world over. Everywhere I went in India I had to meet questions as to the treatment of negroes in United States. It is almost impossible for us here at home to realize the impression of horror in

any foreign land made by the lynching of negroes in America."

Will Rogers, who recently refused an honorary degree from Oklahoma City University: "What are you trying to do? Make a joke out of college degrees? They are in bad enough repute as it is, without handing them around to comedians. The whole honorary degree business is the hokey. I saw some college is giving Mellon one and he is a billion times shorter. I got too much respect for people that work and earn them to see 'em handed around to every notorious character."

Christian Century-Editorial, referring to recent decision of supreme court, refusing to grant citizenship to Prof. D. C. Macintosh (a Canadian) of Yale Divinity School, because he stated he could not bear arms in a war which he regarded as unjust or contrary to the will of God: "The court's statement is the apotheosis of nationalism. Progressivism never exceeded it. It is the modern equivalent of emperor worship which sent thousands of the early Christians to the lions and the flame. It is a denial of modernism. It sets us back to the age of tribal dieties. According to the supreme court, the only God which the constitution allows an American citizen to worship is a tribal god whose supreme and exclusive concern is the survival of the American nation." We are glad to say that four members of the court—Hughes, Stone, Brandeis and Holmes—did not concur with the court's decision.

George Herbert Palmer, for 40 years professor of philosophy at Harvard: "Hardly one of my early years went by without a long illness. Up to my fortieth year headaches were almost continuous. I have never slept a night through in my life. I have undergone six surgical operations. He is fortunate to whom ill health comes early in life and who thus learns how to take care of himself. The building of a body is a slow business, but I knew myself, on the way to it and saw that with study, persistence and daily self-denial it could be accomplished, as certainly as the building of a barn. Now in my old age (85) I am in health that may be called perfect—no cold for five years, no headache for nearly twice that time."

Central Items

CENTRAL, June 27.—(Special).—Central grange and the Willing Workers club of Central are sponsoring a picnic July 4, at the old Central ball park. Everyone in the community is invited to come and bring a basket lunch. There will be games and contests for all.

Claude Snethen, who has been visiting his sister, Mrs. Carl E. Petford, for some time, left Saturday night for his boat, the U. S. S. West Virginia at San Pedro, Cal.

Visitors at the La Chance home on Wednesday night were Mr. and Mrs. Carl Petford and family, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Jorgensen and daughter, Dorothy, and Ben Forney.

Mr. and Mrs. Gustaf Swanson and family attended the wedding of Mrs. Swanson's niece, Miss Lois Getchell to Frank Sirotek of the J. R. Getchell home in Eugene, Sunday. Miss Helen Swanson was bridesmaid for her cousin.

Drain Notes

DRAIN, June 27.—(Special).—Mrs. Chadbourne and Mrs. Davis of Portland visited here several days at the home of Mrs. L. C. Davis and H. L. Cowles. Mrs. Chadbourne was a resident of Drain a few years ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Montgomery of Lebanon spent the week-end here visiting his mother, Mrs. Sarah Montgomery, and brother, George Montgomery and family.

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Everts and son, Donald, of Seattle are visiting this week at the home of her mother, Mrs. Dick Owens.

Mrs. Lucie Kline has returned from Eugene where she has resided the past year.

Mrs. Morton Weldon who has been suffering with asthma for some time left Monday for Idaho where it is hoped the higher altitude will be beneficial. Her mother, Mrs. Lillie Craig accompanied her.

Miss Grace Olson, primary teacher in the Drain school, is attending summer school at the Ashland normal.

Mr. and Mrs. Algot Anderson and baby of Eugene visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Archie Alford, Sunday.

Miss Benish Ritchey is attending summer school at the University of Oregon.

Mrs. Joe McLarnan and little son of Roseburg are visiting at the home of her mother, Mrs. A. Bruton.

DRAIN, June 27.—(Special).—Mr. and Mrs. Walter Montgomery of Lebanon are visiting his brother, George

Mrs. Kimball. The next meeting will be with Mrs. Kimball July 9 to finish up the work started.

Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Baughman and family were in Monmouth last Tuesday for the graduation exercises. Crystal Baughman was one of the graduates.

Archie Wells and Nellie Lortens left for Monmouth Sunday, where they are attending summer school.

Relatives who picked up with the W. L. Whistler family Sunday are Mr. and Mrs. George Bond, Mr. and Mrs. Vivian Baller and girls Irene, Marie and Evelyn, and Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Robertson of Eugene, and Mr. and Mrs. John Parker of Canyonville.

At Wendling

WENDLING, June 27.—(Special).—Miss Delva Chandler who has been home for two weeks to visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Chandler, has gone to Colorado Springs to attend the national convention of her sorority. Miss Chandler will be a senior at the Oregon State college next fall.

The Wendling people that have been picking berries up near Lacombe have nearly all returned home as the berry season is about over. Conrad Sanders went up Sunday to bring back his folks who have been picking on one of the berry farms up there. Bradford Lisenby went up to bring back his parents and brothers. Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Lisenby and the children have been up there about four weeks. Harry Burroughs came home Saturday from the farm where he was picking berries. Roy Bates and William McKillop were also among those picking berries in the Lacombe district. Mrs. Margie Weidenkeller and her daughter, Esther, and son, Robert, returned to Wendling Saturday after having been for several weeks in the berry fields.

At Deerhorn

DEERHORN, June 27.—(Special).—Coy Lashley and Walden Hileman came home Thursday evening from Turk until after the Fourth. The logging camp is closed till then.

Mr. and Mrs. Davis and grandchild, Roy Rogers, came Friday and spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. Her-

bert Platt. The visitors are from Wendling.

Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Brown, accompanied 10 of their relatives on Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Elston and children, Doris and Howard, of Leburg went Thursday to visit relatives and friends at McMinville and Portland.

Audible sound waves so high pitched that they are said to be "terrible squeaks" have been used successfully by two Texas scientists to kill bacteria.

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